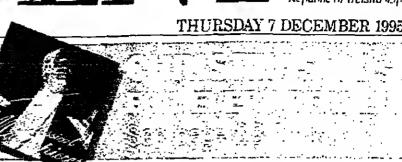
**DESIGNER BOOZE** What makes lemonade so fashionable

Page 4



# Food giant may sue BBC in beef scare

# Helpline linked Bovril to BSE

CHARLES ARTHUR

The BBC may face legal action by the giant US corporation which produces Bovril, after a radio helpline advised callers concerned about BSE - mad cow disease - to avoid meat pies, sausages, beelburgers and beef stock.

The company, CPC, will to-day consider whether to sue the BBC. It said Bovril, which contains extract of boiled bones and carcasses, is produced from cattle raised in Argentina.

Officials at the Meat and Livestock Commission said beef sales had fallen by five per cent last month, compared with last year, and blamed fears that mad cow disease could be transmitted to humans.

Tests have been carried out after the death of a patient in Cartisle to establish if the cause could be Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CID), the equivalent of mad cow disease in humans. The Director of Public Health for North Cumbria Health Au-last Friday, "In one of the an-thority said the patient died in swers, one of my officials was fears over BSE for part of the the Cumberhand Infirmary re-told quite entegorically, that slide in beef sales, which follows cently. The Government users: there is no evidence that BSE pect, and indeed a branded growth in the beef market. can be transmitted from cattle name of a product was also in-

Ian Ramsay, managing di-rector of CPC UK Limited, ac-cused the BBC helpline of BBC," she said: complete and utter irresponsibility", and lodged a com-plaint with the BBC's director-general, John Birt. Mr Ramsay said there was "categorically never" any problem with its product. CPC said that "Bovril beef drink and stock products do not contain any of the materials that the Ministry



British origin. The BBC did not consult us on this matter."

Junior health minister Angela Browning told the BBC she was helpline's advice, which she says was given to members of her department when they phoned in after she appeared on cluded ... I am very concerned

The BBC said workers on the helpline, operated by an external company, were told to tell callers there was a debate on BSE, and the advice of the Government's chief medical officer was that beef products were safe, although some scientists believed there might be a risk. A BBC spokeswoman said:

"There was one incident when

brand name, Bovril, intending to mean the more generic term stock cubes as the kind of beef products some scientists believe may carry some risks." But the spokeswoman added that operators of belplines were always briefed not to use trade names. "We are investigating the situation," she said.

Scientists are increasingly critical of the Government's position. Colin Blakemore, the Oxford University, said recent cases of the human equivalent of BSE in Britain "most definitely do not support [Health Secretary] Stephen Dorrell's statement earlier this week that there is 'no conceivable risk' from eating beef." Shaun Heaphy, a senior research fellow at Leicester University, said: "very concerned" about the "There is a grand experiment helpline's advice, which she going on in Britain with BSE. with us as the laboratory animals..." Both scientists say they have given up eating beef.

Nevertheless, ministers went

on the offensive yesterday to bolster beet's public image. Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg said it was "absolutely safe" to eat and the should be encouraging chil-dren to eat it, while his Welsh counterpart Gwilym Jones, told Parliament: "I am more than content to go on eating beef on a regular basis." He repeated that there was no scientific evidence of a link between BSE and its human equivalent Colin Blakemore, page 18

# First blast of winter brings snow chaos



All-white: Cyclists near Hosey Common, at Westerham, Kent, yesterday. Meanwhile, travellers using four wheels instead of two suffered lengthy delays on the roads, as the heavy snow and freezing temperatures combined to create 'nightmare' conditions

# Iran backed plot to kill Arafat

PATRICK COCKBURN

SAFA HAERI

An attempt to kill Yasser Arafat was foiled when the leader of ganisation was assassinated by Israeli Mossad agents in Malta in October, a source with access to franian intelligence has told he Independent.

Fathi Shkaki, the Jihad leader, had just attended a meeting in Tripoli, capital of Libya, with a senior Iranian en-voy at which they discussed plans to assassinate the PLO chairman. Islamie Jihad and Iran are both bitterly opposed

between Israel and the PLO claimed responsibility for the signed by the Palestinian leader. The Iranian emissary who met Shkaki was Hussein Shaik-

tioleslant, the deputy foreign minister for Arab allairs, says the source. Mr Shaikholeslam, deputy head of Iranian intelligence, has been a leading hardliner in the Iranian government since he helped organise the takeover of the US emhassy in

Tehran in 1979,

Iranian intelligence believes the PLO gave Mossad, the Israeli foreign security organisa-tion, details of Shkaki's itinerary and false passport, enabling them to arrange his assassination outside his hotel in Valletto the peace agreement ta on 26 October. Israel has not killing of Shkaki, but is widely

believed to have been behind it. Shkaki checked into room 616 of the Diplomat hotel in Valletta on the morning he was killed. He had shaved off his but had no bodyguards. When he returned from a brief shopping trip he was met by two men on a motorcycle, one of whom shot him six times in the head.

Relations between Mr Arafat and Iran, which is the main financial and political supporter of Islamic Jihad, have deterio-rated sharply this year. Three months ago Mr Arafat anacked Iran, saying: "No matter how much money you provide to Ji-

Iran, in turn, has denounced Mr Arufat for supporting the American and Israeli policy of

isolating Iran.
Islamic Jihad, one of the most effective guerrilla organ-isations in the Middle East, was created on the Iranian model. Iran continues to denounce

Mr Arafat and the Oslo agreement, expressing particular rage at his offer of condolences after Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, was assassinated on 4 November, Iranian intelligence is said to be still targeting Mr Arafat, whose own security has been much increased since the deaths of Shkaki and Rabin.



# Baggage handler caught with Duchess's gems



DAVID USBORNE

A baggage bandler at New York's Kennedy Airport appeared in court yesterday on theft charges after the Duchess of York's jewellery was found in

The Federal Bureau of Investigations confirmed that both the lost items, a bracelet and a necklace, believed to be worth £250,000 and given to the Duchess by the Queen as a wed-ding present, bad been retrieved. Five small diamonds were found missing from the necklace, however.

Gilbert Terrero, 19, an em-ployee of Hudson General company, the baggage handling agent for British Airways at Kennedy Airport, was charged with "theft from an interstate shipment". He could face a maximum 10 years in jail

to the jewels after being ques-tioned on Tuesday both by BA and FBI security agents. He took them first to his home in Queens, New York, where the damaged necklace had heen hidden in an outdoor shed. The bracelet was later found in

his locker at the airport. The jewellery had been packed inside a small zip-up bag which, according to BA officials, the Duchess had initially taken on board Concorde as carry-on baggage for her flight to London on Monday evening. She then changed her mind and gave it to her lady-in-waiting. Jane Dunn-Butler, who was travelling on a sub-sonic flight to Heathrow 30 minutes later. Miss Dunn-Butler apparently checked the bag into her plane's

Officials at both BA and the FBI expressed surprise at the

Mr Terrero led investigators way the bag had been passed around and then stowed. "I would not put something of that value in the hold," suggested James Kallstrom, an assistant director with the FBI. John Lampl, New York spokesman for BA, concurred: "Knowing the kind of value involved, it probably should have been tak-

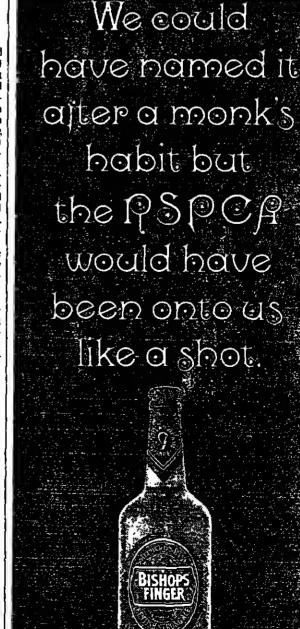
> Once checked in by the ladyin-waiting, the small bag was the last to enter the jumbo-jet's hold before departure. Mr Lampl said it posed an easy temptation. because it was a zip-up hag without any lock.

en on as carry-in baggage."

The Hudson Company, he added would have to look very carefully" about who it was hiring if it expected to keep its con-

reser with the airline.
The FBI said it was continuing the search for the missing five diamonds and was confi-

dem they would be found, 150 accountants face ruin over clanger



### IN BRIEF

999 only in Essex

industrial action by firefighters on Merseyside is poised to spread to the South-east after union members in Essex voted to ban all but emergency calls Page 2

### Profit from disabled

Six banks running a car-leasing company for a disabled charity bave allegedly made "unjusti-

### Galileo mission

section

ONE

Scientists will learn tonight whether the Galileo space mission to Jupiter has completed the most perilous stage of its 2.3 billion-mile journey. Page 10

Financial Correspondent

Nearly 150 chartered acconnfollowing a record damages award in the High Court yes-terday worth £105m including interest and costs.

Each of the partners in Binder Hamlyn affected by the judgment are personally habie for around a quarter of a million pounds each. Binder's said vesterday it will "vigorously ap-

against Binder's - believed to be the biggest ever in the UK against an accountancy firm after a judge criticised crucial tants face personal bankruptcy information the firm volunteered during a takeover bid five vears ago.

Jonathan Sumption, QC. representing Binder's, told Mr Justice May that his client's insurance cover fell short of the total £105m damages and interest by £34m. Legal sources said this would mean that all the partners that had worked at peal against the award.

ADT, an electronic security company, won the damages for the shortfall.

ADT first brought the claim in August 1992. Sources close to the firm said that the total number of partners liable was unclear because of retirements and deaths, but was probably

between 130 and 150. Most of Binder's was bought last year by giant US rival Arthur Andersen but legal sources said that it would not be

However, the award is likely to please Michael Ashcroft, the entrepreneur who built ADT in the 1980s through a series of audacious acquisitions which alienated the City.

Mr Sumption successfully applied to the judge for a hearing to ask for a stay of settlement until an appeal is heard. Legal sources expect any appeal

to take up to a year. Binder's had signed off an au-dit for in October 1989 for Britannia Securities Group, target of a takeover bid, which confirmed to ADT that Binder's stood by the audit ADT then spent £105m buying Britannia. The judge found that the accountants had been negligent in their audit of the company and its subsidiaries and it was worth

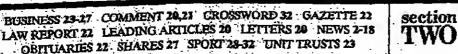
only £40m. He awarded hidder

ADT the difference between the purchase and true values. Binder's worked for BSG not ADT, the electronic security company seeking to buy out the shares. The judge found the firm had assumed responsibility to ADT at a business meeting in

January 1990. Running for cover, page 25



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# Banks accused of profiteering from the disabled Loyalist politician states in state of the state

Six high street banks running a £1.2bn car leasing company for a disabled charity have made "unjustified" profits, according to a former deputy chairman of the company. Motability Finance Ltd,

which leases 80,000 cars a year by using disabled people's £32.65 a week mobility allowance, has twice landed windfall profits but it does not fully explain how much was made or

where the money went. The leasing company was set up by the charity, Motabil-ity, to capitalise on bulk discounts. It is the largest car leasing company in the world, but it is currently being inves-tigated by the National Audit Office following claims that it ty Finance Ltd (MFL, the fihas become secretive, refusing nance company) have been

Charity concerned over financial aspects of car leasing. Steve Boggan reports

to publish the accounts of a number of associated partnership subsidiaries controlled by Barclays, NatWest, Midland, Lloyds, the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Bank of Scotland. Last night, Alan Simpson, Labour MP for Nottingham South, tabled 16 parliamentary questions for Peter Lilley, the

curity, demanding information on the finance company. Since its creation in 1977, some governors of Motability (the charity) have complained that the workings of Motabili-

Secretary of State for Social Se-

kept secret even from them. However, internal correspondence obtained by the Independent reveals that there has been a boardroom split within MFL over who should

handle the charity's money. Alan Outten, a former deputy chairman of MFL and one of its directors for 15 years. wrote to Simon Willis, a former director of Motability, in June 1993 arguing that the charity should take over MFL.

Mr Outten, 62, died last Saturday after a battle against cancer. He voiced his concern over MFL, of which he was vicechairman for eight years, in a

letter in 1993 in which he wrote: "For the last year or so, I have heen increasingly convinced that we should look at the possibility of the charity taking over MFL ... All the costs and

expenses of MFL are recovered in the pricing of the initial reotals ... All the computer systems, premises, staff salaries and pension contributions, operating costs, consultancy and professional fees etc are and have

always been paid for by the cus-tomers [disabled people]. "Accordingly, the banks have no investment in MFL and a valid case could be made for

behalf of the disabled, has paid for and therefore effectively

MFL receives an element of customers' Disability Living Allowance directly from the Department of Social Security, ensuring it was free of bad Mr Simpson said: "The char-

ity does a fine job but the finance company behind it represents a monopoly providing risk-free profits for a group of banks in-stead of pushing costs down fur-ther for the disabled.

"It is extremely doubtful to me whether the banks require

creases in tax rates," he said. The banks were bedging against a possible increase in corporatioo tax from 33 per cent to 50 per cent, which never occurred.

Twice, he said, the banks made windfall profits from running MFL, once when corporation taxes were lowered and ooce when, in 1988, they took out fixed-interest loans shortly before interest rates increased. Proceeds went towards a new charity, called the Motability Tenth Anniversary Trust Fund Ltd. That currently stands at about £40m.

In another letter, dated 17 March 1993, to David Maxwell

of KPMG Peat Marwick, for-merly the charity's auditors, Mr Outten criticised the £40m projected contingency fund.

Gerry Acher, head of audit at KPMG Peat Marwick and vice chairman of Motability, said Mr Outten's proposals had been considered but rejected because it would have been mappropriate for the governors of a charity to bear responsibility for £1.2bn of liabilities.

Reported profits of £85m on the leasing side of the business, he said, failed to take into account tax and interest pay-ments which brought true profits for the banks to just £6m for 1993 and £8.8m for 1984.

spiracy. Three others were ac-He said Motability's latest accounts, due in three weeks, guilty on lesser charges involv-

### ng weapons. Sentence was adjourned for

guilty in gun case

Three men, including a leading loyalist politician, were found guilty yesterday of conspiring to

run guns to the outlawed Ulster

The High Court in Glasgow was told that six men were ar-

rested after police seized a semi-automatic pistol and a

machine-gun being transported from Aidrie to Liverpool. Lindsay Robb, 28, of the Progressive Unionist Party, was

found guilty of criminal con-spiracy to further the purposes

of the UVF. John Johnston, 49.

from Falkirk, and William

McArthur, 41, from Bonny-

bridge, both central Scotland,

were also found guilty of con-

quitted of conspiracy but found

Volunteer Force.

**Deportation delay** The Nigerian asylum-seeker at the centre of a political row over Conservative Central Office involvement in his planned deportation at the weekend has been allowed an extra two weeks to prepare a more de-tailed case. Abiodun Igbindu, 25, a member of an opposition group, says he has been arrest-ed more than 10 times and tor-tured and fears for his life should he be returned.

### West appeal

Rosemary West is to lodge her appeal against her conviction on 10 charges of murder with the Court of Appeal within the next few days, her solicitor said. She will challenge the admissihility of key evidence in her trial at Wiochester Crown Court, argue that some charges should have been heard separately and ask that part of the judge's summing-up should be

### Virgin victory

The Advertising Standards Authority has ordered PensiCo International to change the way it advertises its Pepsi Challeoge which claims its cola tastes the best after a complaints from Richard Branson, whose Virgin group recently launched its own cola brand.

### Royal price

A painting which has belonged to the royal families of Britain, France and Spain was sold for more than £5m. The Finding of Moses, painted for Charles I by his court painter Orazio Geo tileschi in 1633-34, was bought at Sotheby's by an anonymous private collector.

### Tagging drive

Magistrates are being issued with guidelines to encourage them to make more use of electronic tagging and save Home Office plans from disaster. In nearly six months only 17 out of a possible 5,000 offenders have been tagged.

### Prize journalism

Three journalists have won awards for their work with the Independent and the Independent on Sunday. In the Medical Iournalists' Association awards for 1995, sponsored by Norwich Union Healthcare, Celia Hall, former Medical Editor of the Independent, was runner-up in the main category for her exclusive account of how haemophiliaes became infected with Hepatitis C from blood transfusions. Steve Connor, former Science Correspondent of the Independent, received a commendation for revealing the world's "first" Aids case a Manchester man who died in 1959 - was false. Annabel Ferriman, a freelance contributor to the Independent on Sunday. was commended for a feature

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Union warning: Merseyside dispute set to spread over proposal to close four stations and shed 645 posts

# **Firefighters** threaten to strike over job cuts

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

Signs emerged yesterday that the four-mouth campaign of industrial action by firefighters on Merseyside in protest at spending cuts is poised to spread to the south-east of England.

The Fire Brigades Union in Essex has voted to ban all but emergency calls on 15 and 16 December, and the upion's reaction over proposals to slim down the service in the capital.

Merseyside firefighters are to press their union's executive oext Thursday to call an emergency national conference to discuss the situation in the Liverpool area and to urge the national leadership to hack national action. The Local Government

Management Board, which negotiates nationally with the FBU, was yesterday still as-sessing the full implications of renewed pressure on council finances, but it was clear that fire brigades throughout the country would be faced with cut-

be discussing a recommendation that the service should lose 645 posts over the oext 25 mooths oearly a tenth of the workforce. The four fire stations under threat of closure are Shooters Hill and Downham in south-east London and Manchester Square and Barbican in the centre of the capital.

The plan was drawn up by Brian Rohinson, chief officer of the London brigade, who begional council for London yes-terday recommended strike achieved over the next two vears through "natural wastage" and a freeze on recruitment. Jimmy Fitzpatrick, FBU ex-

ecutive member for London, said the regional committee would attempt to fight the proposals by lobbying politicians and enlisting the aid of community organisations, but ultimately believed the future of the hrigade could depend on members' willingness to take industrial action.

Emergency service workers do oot take strike actioo actioo lightly. It is very much the last resort." He said, however, and Civil Defence Authority will riorate because of the closure total of nine 9-hour-strikes



Uncertain future: Firefighters at Shooters Hill, south-east London, one of four stations threatened with closure

between life and death. Man-

agement is taking is a gamble."

Mr Fitzpatrick said that if London took action it would be the country for national action Tomorrow, the London Fire engines would inevitably dete- which has already staged a

of stations. "In the fire service and twelve 24-hour stoppages, al action if there are any com-seconds can mean the difference Mike Lawson, Merseyside representative on the FBU executive, believes there is abut the erosion of the service considerable support around through natural wastage.

FBU branches are concerned Ken Cameron, general sec-

The union has already threat- year almost 200 posts disap- lic at risk. Every appliance maximise the amount of monened to take national industri- peared in England and Wales taken off the run makes the ey devoted to the service.

and at least the same number of jobs would be lost in the coming year. "We fear that the fire service will only be able to meet its statutory obligations by lowering standards of fire cov-

country a more dangerous place," he said.

Some seasoned observers believe, however, that the prophecies of swingeing jobs cuts are routine at this time of the year

Photograph: Edward Webb

# **PVC** link to cot death likely to be rejected

**GLENDA COOPER** 

Independent experts are expected to reject any connection between cot deaths and PVC mattresses in a report released The review was ordered by

the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Kenneth Calman, after Central TV's The Cook Report claimed that chemicals in mattresses could emit toxic gases.

Lancet, the medical journal, and cost more than £100,000 to complete. However, the experts will report that they could find no evidence to back the programme's theory, according to yesterday's Financial Times. The Cook Report broadcast in

November 1994 alleged that deterioration of cot mattress material led to the emission of toxic eases which could cause sudden infant death. It said that bedwetting released a fungal reaction in phosphorus and antimony, chemicals used by some manufacturers to make mattresses flame-retardant.

As a result Boots and other from sale and thousands of parents contacted a special phoneline.

Manufacturers were hit hard, including Cassidy Brothers of Blackpool, who hlame a £90,000 fall in pre-tax profits on the effects of the programme.
Thomas Cassidy, the chair-

man of the company, said: "We were deluged with calls from members of the public. It went on for weeks. Sales immediately went down and several small companies went out of husi-

The study will be published in this week's edition of the by the Scottish Cot Death Trust found that cot-death infants had lower levels of antimony in their bodies than infants who had died of other causes. "But by then the damage was done." Of around 600,000 hirths

each year there were 912 deaths in 1991 and 456 in 1992, a reduction of almost a half. The dramatic drop followed the Government's "Back to Sleep" campaign launched by the television personality, Anne Dia-mond, in December 1991. It advises parents to lay babies on their backs rather than stomachs. However, 10 bahies still die from cot deaths every week.

Miss Diamond, whose son was a victim of cot death four years ago, was widely credited with galvanising authority into



Roger Cook: Report claimed PVC could emit toxic gases

action. She said her son's mattress had been tested for the Cook report and it had high levels of antimony.

of mattresses was linked to cot deaths was first mooted in the late 1980s when Barry Richardson, a consultant scientist spe-cialising in deterioration of materials, discovered that in-dustrial PVC was used for hahies' mattresses.

Cook Report said that the programme stood by its claims but im report it would be inappropriate to comment".

death victim than one in a nonsmoking home.

The idea that contamination

A spokeswoman for The until we have seen the inter-

A survey earlier this year re-vealed that a baby whose moth-er and father smokes is five times more likely to he a cot

And last year scientists from Middlesex University said regional variations in infant deaths could be linked to waterlogged soils which cause breathhave given the project top

# Tories' school claim backfires

JOHN RENTOUL and FRAN ABRAMS

The Conservatives' campaign to undermine Tony Blair over an opt-out school hallot in his constituency blew up in their faces yesterday when the school's headteacher and the chairman of the governors condemned a government investigation into allegations that parents were intimidated.

Eamour Farrar, beadteacher of Hurworth school in Mr Blair's Sedgefield constituency. who had campaigned unsuccessfully for parents to vote to adopt grant-maintained status, said he will not co-operate with who is keeping it rolling along is not helping. We want to be left alone. It's our school." Derek Mason, the Tory coun-

cillor who is chairman of the governors of school outside Darlington, also attacked the Education department's decision to "stick their oar in". He told the Independent: "We want to draw a line under the hallot, heal all the wounds and build some bridges."

Parents at the Hurworth school in Mr Blair's Sedgefield constituency voted by 63 to 37 per cent this week not to opt out

the investigation. He told the Newcastle Journal; "We cannot be used in this way. Anybody the local Labour Party misled and Durham council had spread control, after the head alleged misinformation. He claimed a party member had even reand intimidated them. Mrs Shephard's officials yes-

terday "called for information" from Durham council, although a department spokeswoman said she was "not aware of specific complaints, but there has heen quite a bit of coverage". Articles repeating claims of intimidation appeared in the Sunday Express and yesterday's Daily Telegraph.

Mr Farrar, who launched the

campaign for the school to opt out when he became headmaster three months ago, claimed

party member had even referred to him on the doorstep of one parent as a "pillock". But yesterday he said: "The

parents have decided and I'm happy about that. Now I just want to get on with my joh of providing a quality education for the children." David Blunkett, Labour's ed-

ucation spokesman, claimed Mrs Shephard's officials were "embarrassed" by the decision to investigate, and the fact that Education department press releases "are now being faxed around by Conservative Central

# New drug could halt flu epidemics

A revolutionary new drug is being tested which could help to eliminate flu epidemics, it

emerged yesterday.

The drug, known by the code
GG-167, does not kill the virus
1993 and involving 160 volunteers—showed that flu patients

GG-167 recovered easier for the body's immune. system to mop up the infectioo. before it can take hold.

The pharmaceutical giant Glazo has embarked on the second of three trials being held to test the drug, and establish how best to administer it. The company's chief executive, Richard Sykes, is reported to

priority. Trials were delayed last year because there were not enough fin patients to act as guinea-pigs.

4,000 people in Britain each action of an enzyme called winter, mostly affecting the neuraminidase, which allows the virus to escape from infected ratory problems or weak cells and spread throughout

more quickly than those who did not. Glaxo has started recruiting 1,500 flu volunteers in the US and Europe, including the UK, for a much bigger trial.

The company expects to apply for a licence to market the drug in about a year's time. If approved, GG-167 may be on sale from about 1998.

Fin kills an average 3,000 to

immune systems.

A Glazo spokesman, Martin
Sutton, said: "It is too early to really tell if this drug can save lives ... It looks promising, but we have to complete the clini-cal trials and find out which people would be most appropriate to benefit from it."

The drug was developed us-ing powerful computer programmes which can produce graphics showing the structure of complex molecules in 3-D. GG-167 works by blocking the progressed as far.

cells and spread throughout the body. Scientists designed new molecules which bind to the enzyme and jam it, in the same way that a key jams in a lock.

The drug was first discovered by an Australian scientist and has been developed, with financial backing from Glaso, by the small Australian company,

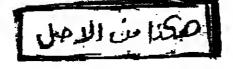
An American team of scientists based at Alabama University is reported to be working along similar lines, but has not

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BACK ISSUES

# GRRR AHA MMM'S PORT



# Snowbound England: Four die as wintry blast causes danger for motorists and leaves the south at a standstill

Icy 'nightmare' brings trail of chaos

PETER VICTOR

Drivers were warned to brace themselves for more winter tailbacks today, as snow and ice continues to leave a trail of chaos across England. Four people are thought to have died after skidding out of control and scores of motorists spent nearly 24 hours trapped in an M25 service station after a section of the motorway was cut off in icy blizzards.

Motoring organisations spoke of "nightmare" conditions on snowbound and icy roads. The Siberian blast sweeping much of the country is expected to last until the weekend, when the frosts will begin to

Worst affected yesterday were Kent and Surrey, with the M25 severely hit by snow on a stretch straddling both counties between junctions five and six. The section was closed in-

Weather outlook

Devon, Dorset, Wittshire and Avon can expect snow today. But the air flow will become more southerly by Friday and a thaw is expected to set in by the weekend.

termittently throughout the morning as police tried to avoid a recurrence of Tuesday night's 37-mile logjam from mid Surrey to the Dartford tunnel.

Even gritting lorries were stuck in the snow as they tried to dodge their way along car-riageways littered with abandoned cars, the RAC said:

In Nottinghamshire, police were investigating whether snow was partly responsible for a crash in which a father and his two children died. Glyn Palmer, 37, was driving his Nissan Micra car with his 10-year-old son, Darren, in the front seat and his daoghter, Paula-Marie, eight, in the back seat when they were in a crash with an articulated lorry on the A6097 near Oxton, Nottinghamshire.

One woman driver died and her husband was seriously injured when their car skidded off the A40 trunk road at Carmarthen and crashed into road signs in the early hours.

Hundreds of trapped trav-. ellers spent nearly 24 hours at Clackett Lane Service Station.



Stranded: While motorists sit gridlocked on the M25, a lorry lies abandoned on the hard shoulder of the closed anti-clockwise carriageway

ce operation to clear the orbital between Caterham, Surrey (Junction 6) and Sevenoaks, Kent (Junction 5), many mo-torists were still stuck yesterday.

on the M25. And despite the falling in the area and condi-

pecting severe falls across the south-east and we are calling in extra staff in to cope."

Rayner Peett of the AA said: "Traffic is a nightmare at the An RAG spokesman said: moment Our advice is to try
"There are still terrible proband stagger journeys, take exlems. There is heavy snow tratime and speak to your boss

should also keep extra warm clothing and a blanket in the car and take a vacuum flask.

A London Weather Centre spokesman warned more snow was forecast for last night in the south-eastern quarter of Britain, particularly East Anglia. from the Continent and spread westwards to central counties of England. Parts of Norfolk and Suffolk can expect a covering of three to four centimetres, he

Today the wind is expected to shift to a more south-easterly direction and southern counties.

shire and Avon, can expect snow. But the air flow would become more southerly by Friday and a thaw was expected to set in by the weekend

For the second day running yesterday bookmakers slashed odds against a white Christmas. Ladbrokes cut their price to

terday morning's quoted odds

of 5-1. Spokesman Paul Austin said: "As soon as our customers can't feel their fingers and toes they start betting heavily on a white Christmas.

William Hill cut their odds from 7-1 to 5-1 and are bracing themselves for a £100,000 pay-

old daughter; and the Duchess

of York. For the global interview

slot be would be looking for fig-

ures such as Jacques Chirac, the French president, James Hewitt.

# Tory MP 'lied to cover up his gay affair'

REBECCA FOWLER

David Ashby, the Tory MP, was described as "a hypocrite, a liar in his libel action against the Sunday Times and Andrew Neil, the former editor, in which he denies he had an affair with another man.

In his opening remarks, Richard Hartley QC for the Sunday Times said that although there was no problem with a man being presented as gay in the 1990s, Mr Asbby had pro-moted himself as a married man for his career as an MP, and lied about his sexuality.

Mr Ashby, 55, separated from Silvana Ashby, 53, his Italian wife, after what he described as 28 "tempestuous" years of marriage in 1993. He was accused of leaving her to South-west London.

"You have to consider whether people do have mid-life crises, and have to say to their wives 'I now find my homosexual leanings are too much'," Mr Hartley said to the jury.

Mr Ashby was accused of having homosexual relations with his neighbour. Dr Ciaran Kilduff, 32. Mr Ashby bought the flat above Dr Kilduff's in Putney after his separation.

Although the two men admit they shared a double bed during a trip to the Chateau Tilque hotel in northern France in January 1994, they denied they were physically intimate, They said it was done to reduce the cost of their trip.

Mr Hartley said the two men slept in the same bed, despite the fact that the hotel had 33 vacant rooms. A twin-bedded room was available at the same price, also in the old part of the hotel, which Mr Ashby pre-

ferred. Although the Sunday Times accepts Mr Asbby did not share a bed with a man on another trip to Goa, in India, as it alleged in an article on 16 January, 1994, it alleges Mr Asbby is a bomosexual and denies libel.

Mrs Ashby, who has repeatedly accused her busband of being gay, did not give evi-

Andrew Alderson, a senior Sunday Times journalist, who wrote two articles on Mr Ashby, told the libel jury that the paper was first alerted to his domestic problems when it received anonymous phone calls alleging he had left his wife to be close to another man. Mr Alderson visited Mrs Ashby in her South-west London home.

"I asked her if her marriage was over," Mr Alderson said. "She said 'ycs'. I said 'I understand it was fairly unusual circumstances for his leaving'. She said 'yes' and invited mc in to her home for a lengthy

conversation. Mr Alderson said Mrs Ashhy told him her husba**nd w**as baving an affair with Dr Kilduff. whom the paper never named.

The jury was also played a taped interview with Robert Sheridan, the homosexual partner of Brian Ashby, Mr Ashby's older brother, who lived in Kentucky openly as a homo-sexual before his recent death from a heart condition.

Mr Sberidan painted a bleak picture of the Ashby family, apparently torn apart by greed

over the family business. When Mr Sheridan, Brian's partner for 25 years, was asked if Mr Asbby was a bomosexual he said he did not know.

"Englishmen are usually very refined, they have a little bit more of a gentle touch to them," he said, "It wouldn't surprise me if every Englishman

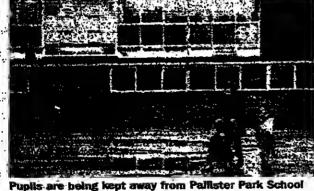
# Experts try to quell fears over rising meningitis toll

terday told anxious parents not to panic over the number of meningitis cases in recent months, which may be evidence of an "early winter peak" of the

Yesterday the confirmation of further meningitis cases in Cleveland and Nottinghamshire were likely to add to parents increasing anxiety over their chil-dren's health. However, the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre, part of the Public Health Laboratory, said panic was unwarranted and their expectations" for this time

of the year.

A spokeswoman for the PHL said: "We autorpate recording some 2,000 cases each year. That equates to six cases every day." The centre said figures for the first 10 months of the year were roughly in the expected ranges seen over the last five ranges seen over the last five years. Only a marginal increase in October's figures indicated the disease, most common in Primary School in Middles-winter months, may have brough, Cleveland, died last peaked shead of the high nor- Eriday. The second victim is a



February.

More cases of meningitis – to add to those recently reported in Lincolnshire, West Yorkshire, Leeds, Glasgow and Lon-don-were confirmed yesterday. It was disclosed that a second

ditions to the cluster of cases to hit the north-east. Four-year-old Reece Mc-Cawil, a pupil at Pallister Park 16-year-old

es have also been recorded in the same county. The patients include a two-year-old from Peterice and a four-year-old from Crook who attends a loyoungster had died, and six cal nursery. A pupil from others were ill, in the latest ad-ditions to the cluster of cases to a 17-year-old student attending New College, Durham, are two confirmed cases from Chesterle-Street, A 12-year-old from Bishopton ocar Darlington is also one of the new cases. Cleveland Education De-

Cawll, will stop pupils being kept away from school by wor-In north Nottinghamshire,

their public reassurances, given

after the death of Reece Mc-

16-year-old girl from Rufford School, Edwinstowe, has been diagnosed as suffering from meningitis. A five-year-old from Mansfield, has already received treatment for the disease. Simon Kroll, Professor of

Paediatrics at St Mary's Hos-pital, London, one of the UK's leading centres for the study of meningococcal disease, said:
"Using to word 'outbreak' to describe what we are seeing is making a mistake. It is imprecise and has emotional

Most of the population ac-quire some immunity to the disease during childhood. However, in young children there is an increased risk. Adolescents also experience a slightly increased risk. The disease is classified as "seasonal" with normal peaks expected in the winter. Prof Kroll said "clusters" of the disease were part of its normal behaviour.

# Global village prepares to welcome Andrew Neil

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

Andrew Neil, the combative former editor of the Sunday Times. has landed a major BBC chat show a year after his planned American prime time programme failed to materialise.

Uniquely, The Andrew Neil Show will be broadcast live both on BBC2 and on BBC World, the BBC's international information channel, which is said to be available in 49 million homes in 111 countries.

times a week from 9 January.

But he emphasised: "This is not

The show will start at 2.10pm on BBC2, when Mr Neil will interview a person involved in the big story of the day. From 2.30pm it will also go out on BBC World, with an interviewee of more global interest. Viewers will be encouraged

to "interact" with the show by sending in questions by e-mail. fax, phone or on the Internet. These will flash up on a computer in front of Mr Neil. The former editor, who is resenting a second series of Is This Your Life? on Channel 4, said he was delighted to have clinched the show to run three a political show. We have to cover everything. I always see things in Sunday Times section terms, and I will cover everything from the style section to the news review.

He said the interviewees he would have asked to appear on the show yesterday were Jane Dunn-Butler, the luckless ladyin-waiting who mislaid the Duchess of York's diamonds; Julia Somerville, who has been cleared of wrong-doing over the photographs of her seven-year-



Andrew Neil: BBC2 show

the former lover of the Princess of Wales, and Henry Kissinger. Although the show is on daytime television, the 13-week contract is a prestigious one for Mr Neil, who bas become a familiar face on television. Last

Sunday he got the upper hand of Mrs Merton on her show, but in August he was criticised in a Times review of Is This Your life? for over-aggression: "Cackling, Neil cranks the ban-dle while flimsy celebrines such as Olivia Newton-John squeal, creak and dismember," it said. Neil left Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation in November

last year after a plan for him to front a high-profile current affairs show on Fox, the US national television network, broke down. Since then he has pursued a lucrative career as a freelance writer and broadcaster. He is also leading a consortium which has bid around £250m for the Express newspaper group, although it seems unlikely that its owner. Lord Stevens, will wish to sell.

Cellnet and Vodafone think Saturday should be peak rate on their business tariffs,

is a gethink the MAAAA weekend should be off-peak.

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Britain and booze: Pub trend is latest innovation by brewers fighting to maintain profits as a nation's drinking habits shift

# Rise of alcoholic lemonade tops off ale's decline

The latest trend in British drinking habits is enough to make the hardened real ale drinker choke nn his pint. Bass, the country's second-biggest hrewer, yester-day disclosed that it is selling more than 2.5 million bottles a week of the Hooper's Hooch hrand nf alcoholic lemnnade it launched in June.

Put in context, the 2.5 million half-pint bottles equates tn 5,000 barrels - roughly twice the nutput of a medium-sized reginnal hrewer like Fuller, Smith & Turner in London.

Hooper's Hnoch, launched in compete with the Merrydown cider group's Australian Two Dogs lemonade, has surpassed all expectations.

Alcoholic lemonade has hecome a fashinnahle drink among City dealers and young males who, as their machn image demands, top off the 4.7 per cent alcoholic strength with cbasers of neat double vodkas. grow in popularity.

"Since Hooper's Hooch ar
Drinks manufacturers have

rived in Jane it has dane nathing hut grow. It may be a fad, t don't know," said Sir Ian Prosser, chairman and chief execu-



A barman with some of the so-called designer lagers which have helped transform the British pub trade

Fad or not, the success of Hooper's Hooch and Two Dogs speaks volumes for the changes in drinking habits. All drinks have their day – witness the rise and fall of Babycham – but the current trends indicate that higher strength, and higher priced drinks, will continue tn

reacted nnt only tn the changing demands of consumers, but also tn pressure from sharebolders to increase profits. Given that the heer market is

mature, the need to innovate has become paramnunt. However, changes really started back in the 1950s when an increasing number of women started using pubs and de-manded more than their usual

tipple of port and lemon.
The advent of commercial television in 1955, and the increasing introduction of lager beers, accelerated the innovatinn process sharply as viewers were blitzed with commercials for drinks such as Martini, Advocaat and Tia Maria.



brewers tried unsuccessfully tn stop the rot by producing keg beers such as Red Barrel.

became even more ominous in employment in heavy industries

Real ales were hit hard, and nation's beaviest drinkers. Moreover, the drinks industry has been further hit by the lowering of customs barriers The depressing signs for beer across Europe, allowing the importation of cheap beer oo the 1970s with the decline of so-called booze cruisers. The clamp down nn drink-driving

Managing the profit margin has become the name of the game. The profit margin on a can of alcoholic lemonade, selling for £2.12 a half-pint can in some City pubs, is significantly greater than nn a standard pint nf hitter selling for £1.50. Many traditional beers have

been rejuvenated, mainly courtesy of the widget that helps make a canned, or bottled beer pour and taste like its draught equivalent. The widget has eoabled Whitbread to take Boddingtnn's from a relatively country's biggest selling beers.

Consumers, it seems, are willingly walking down the road to the bar of expensively priced branded drinks. Something has to give, and it is. "A pint of best bitter please", is a request that is being be heard less and less

Acquisition hopes, page 25

# Ministers obstructed DTI inquiry into illicit arms sales

**CHRIS BLACKHURST** Westminster Correspondent

Defence ministers have blocked requests from officials at the Department of Trade and Industry investigating the sanctions-busting export of naval guns to Iran via Singapore by BMARC, the company which nnce couoted Jonathan Aitkeo among its directors.

Opeoing the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee inquiry into the illicit trade by BMARC, revealed in

the Independent earlier this year, DTI officials told MPs they had been denied access to papers seized by Ministry of Defence police when Astra Holdings, its pareot company, collapsed in 1992.

The official heading the DTI investigation ordered by the then President of the Board of Trade, Michael Heseltine, last July, told MPs there were "some constraints" on the release of papers by the MoD police.

The question of whether they could be available to us or

cussion about the role of the papers between departments at quite a senior level." Pressed by MPs visibly outraged at the MoD's apparent lack of coop-eration, Mr Meadway replied: "Ministerial level." Later, DTI officials disclosed that Mr Heseltine himself was involved in

the approaches to the MoD. Mr Meadway said he did not believe the papers would bave "fundamentally altered" the

nnt was raised," said Jobn findings of his inquiry, which was intelligence report in 1988 hood is that it didn't ring any Meadway, head of export conasked to look into possible failuros at the DTL "There was disings by the DTTs export licensparent Oerlikon appeared to be pear to refer to exports that origing unit. This did not go down well with MPs. Roger Berry, Labour MP for Kingswood, said he did oot see how it was possible for Mr Meadway to claim the lack of the papers had ant hindered his inquiry when be had not even seen them. They may illuminate the story. in the broad sense," acknowledged Mr Meadway.

The DTI officials said their department had received an

using Singapore as a way of evading sanctions preventing arms sales to Iran. But the report did oot name BMARC and the DTI inquiry concluded it would have been "extremely difficult" for officials to have connected the warning to the Lincolnshire-based company.

Only two people in the DII had seen the 1988 intelligence report, Mr Meadway told the committee. "I think the likelipear to refer to exports that originated from the UK." be said. Between 1985 and 1991, BMARC submitted 88 export

applications listing Singapore as the final customer and a further six with Singapore as an inter-mediate destination. The committee's chairman,

Martin O'Neill, suggested that Singapore was "well known" in the 1980s as a route for arms companies trying to break em-bargoes. Mr Meadway replied:

heavyweight

"We have oo documentary evidence to suggest that that was taken oo board in the DTL" He admitted however that in 1985 Sweden had changed its policy relating to Singapore

because of such concerns. Mr O'Neill said "geoeral knowledge" suggested Singa-pore had no oeed for the 140 oaval guns from BMARC.
"One would have thought some bells would be ringing somewhere, eveo if it was at a junior level," he said. Mr Meadway said because the

oumber of weapons involved. Pressure of work meant staff had to rely on the bonesty of exporters when making applica-tions. Mr Berry said: "It is the easiest thing in the world - a five-year-old could do it - to get round any restrictions on arms exports in the UK."

guns were scot in component

form it was difficult to assess the

Mr Meadway replied: "Obviously the system can be evaded but reputable British companies don't spend their time doing that."



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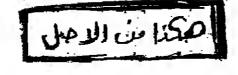
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# Cancer treatment blamed for injuries

Hundreds of breast cancer patients permanently damaged by radiation treatment have the Government.

he Government overlying nerves got higher dos-The women, left with severe es of radiation than expected, sain and paralysis of an arm due "Women may have heen on nerve damage learned that in Wolle her may have heen pain and paralysis of an arm due to nerve damage, learned that their injuries were due to ex-cessive doses of radiation, mappropriately delivered dur-

A report from the Royal College of Radiologists has confirmed that the most likely. explanation for the condition, known as brachial plexus neuropathy (BPN), was the physi-

High doses were a secondary

Dr Margaret Spittle, Dean of by radiation treatment have received a major boost to their claims for compensation from the Government.

Suffering pain and paralysis in her left arm. Now she is in constant pain, and bone tissue in her collar bone and some of her collar bone and some of her

> initially lying down with their head on a pillow for the first doses, and may have then been moved to a sitting up position for the dose to the lymph area. to hetter accommodate the equipment," she said.

Lady Audrey Ironside, founder and president of Rage (Radiation Action Group Exropathy (BPN), was the physical movement of patients between radiotherapy treatment to the breast and radio comed the report yesterday.

To radiotherapy was found in 48 formal written proced to radiotherapy was found in 48 formal written proced to rediotherapy was found in 48 formal written proced to rediotherapy was found in 48 formal written proced to rediotherapy was found in 48 formal written proced to rediotherapy was found in 48 formal written proced to rediotherapy was found in 48 formal written proced to rediotherapy was found in 48 formal written proced to radiotherapy was found in 48 formal written proced to rediotherapy was

therapy to the lymph nodes in She was treated for breast can- where Rage members had been the lower neck and armpit. cer at the Royal Marsden Hos- treated. A higher incidence of BPN was linked with some cenpital, London, in 1980 at the age tres than others. of 50. Two years later she began

The report found that 41 of the cases occurred prior to 1987, suggesting that the incidence of BPN is declining as practice has changed. BPN is now rare, Dr Spittle said.

The report recommends that The report confirms the

patients should be treated with radiation in a fixed position, that closer attention should be given to doses received by the tissues in the lower neck and armpit and that lymph nodes reviewed the records of 126 should continue to be treated members of Rage Breast (for women who have been treated selectively and not routinely as in the past. It says that every cancer centre should have a formal written procedure for treatment, and calls for clinical trials to determine the optimum

# Survival 'is lottery' for women

ribs has been destroyed.

worst fears of several hundred

women. We all suspected the

cause. This is enormously help-

ful to our quest for compensa-tion from the Government,"

for breast cancer), and BPN due to radiotherapy was found in 48

Two leading radiologists

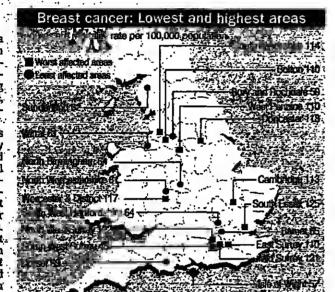
Lady Ironside said.

GLENDA COOPER

Women are victims of a "shameful" health lottery with 60 per cent of district health authorities likely to fail the Government's targets for reducing breast cancer deaths by 2000, the Labour Party claimed yes-

Variations in mortality rates between districts can differ by as much as 170 per cent and three out of eight regional health authorities are also unlikely to meet the Government's target of a 25 per cent reduction in breast cancer deaths between 1990 and 2000.

Breast cancer killed almost 14,000 women in the UK in 1992. It is responsible for about 20 per cent of cancer deaths and 5 per cent of all deaths in women. In an area of average breast cancer mortality, the disease will affect 1 in every. 1.163 of the population, the re-port showed. But in the worst, area this rises to 1 in 800 and in the best area it decreases to fall below. 1 in 2.222. The average rate of



mortality was 86 per 100,000 population. A total of 55 district health authorities fall on or above the average. The other 57

ill below.

South West Surrey, with the lowest rate, had 45 deaths per

100,000 - a difference of 170 per cent. Three authorities - South Essex, North West Surrey, and Mid Surrey - had death rates almost 50 per cent higher than av-erage, it was claimed.

According to Labour's figures, the five district health authorities with the worst record are: South Essex (125 deaths per 100,000 population), North West Surrey (122), Mid Surrey (121), Doncaster (118), Worces-ter and District (117). Areas with the best records include South West Surrey, Isle of Wight, Bury and Rochdale, North Worcestershire and the Wirral.

Of the 112 authorities, 45 were on course to meet the Government's target of a 25 per cent reduction and 13 were making progress. But 54 looked likely to miss the target. Labour said its findings flew

in the face of government claims about hreast cancer. It the English authority with the quoted from a Health of the Nahighest mortality rate - 125 deaths per 100,000 population. tion report which said there was At the other end of the scale, "relatively little variation" in mortality around the England

# A new ballet waits in the wings



On their toes: The Royal Ballet dancers Stuart Cassidy, Deborah Bull and Darcey Bussell at rehearsals for Mr Worldly Wise, hy the American choreographer Twyla Tharp, which has its world première at Covent Garden on Saturday. Tickets have been cut from £65 to £27.50 and the cheapest are just £2

Photograph: Lawrie Lewis





it takes all sorts

# news

# **Examiners** limit calculator use in school maths tests

Government exam advisers yesterday announced a clampdown nn the use of calculators in national tests because of fears that they are lowering standards.

From next year calculators will be barred from one of two maths papers in tests for 600,000 11-year-olds. Officials are also considering banning them from one of the maths papers taken by 14-year-olds.

In maths, say reports nn this year's tests, 14-year-olds did well at simple mental arithmetic and using simple fractions and percentages. However, they had difficulty with two-digit divisions without calculators and with questions needing mathematical reasoning and problemsolving skills.

One in 10 could not multiply 840 by 63 and one in five could not divide 1.24 metres by 14

Dr Nick Tate, chief executive

of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority which published the reports, said: There are vital parts of maths which can only be taught with-out ready access to calculators. The move to calculator-free papers will signal more strongly to schools the importance of thinking very carefully indeed about the way they use calculators. The overuse of calcula-

tors can be damaging."
At present pupils are allowed calculators in all maths papers and those questions in which calculators must not be used are indicated.

Dr Tate said pupils found that confusing. It was also difficult to police when calculators were being used.

The anthority has commissioned an international survey to examine how calculators are used in other countries. A report from Her Majesty's In-spectors suggested recently that calculators are used much more widely in British primary

The authority's reports on national curriculum testing for more than 2 million children say standards of reading and writing among seven-year-olds are rising while those in maths remain much the same. Standards in English, maths and science for 14-year-olds are about the same as last year. Full details will not be known until the

Boys scored higher than girls nn the non-fiction test and girls did better than boys on story-

Dr Tate said that the tests had been a success. The reports acknowledge that there were problems with marking the 14-year-old English tests with bundreds of able pupils being given marks that were too low. The training and supervision of markers will be improved this

After allegations of cheating in the 11-year-olds' tests, schools will next year be forbidden from opening test papers in advance.



painting, which was commissioned by Charles I and painted between 1633-4, and was bought by a private collector

### North and south of spelling

how you talk. Reports on this year's national

tests for seven-year-olds show that regional accents are one of the obstacles to improving the nation's spelling. Sixteen per cent spelt moth

as mof and 14 per cent wrote finking instead of thinking. Bath was spelt with both short and long vowels and sometimes written baf. Children had difficulty with

words where more than one letone in five could spell scream occurred.

Cockneys spell it mof and Lan-castrians spell it moth. If you are seven, it makes sense to spell countries they had learned about sounds to words where they did not apply: bred for bread, nos for nose, fens for fence.

Consonants caused difficulty in words where they are not pronounced, such as knows. The reports on this year's tests say pupils know the rules of spelling but they tend to apply them wrongly and to for-

In tests for 11-year-olds, some pupils failed to spell top and press correctly. Most mistakes were made in the spelling ter represented the vowel. Only of the words apprehensive and

# Cheesemaker victorious in listeria battle

JOHN ARLIDGE Scotland Correspondent

One of Britain's leading cheesemakers, Humphrey Errington, was celebrating victory last night after a bitter year-long battle to protect the good name of his Lanark Blue cheese.

More than one tonne of Lanark Blue, worth more than £60,000, was condemned as unfit for human consumption last al" attack on Mr Errington. year after council bygieoe offirials found traces of listeria in the cheese. Environmental health officers tried to raid Mr Errington's dairy and destroy 44 batches of the gourmet product.

But in a heated confrontation, Mr Errington, 50, refused to allow them on to bis land. He insisted the listeria was "natural and harmless" and began a legal battle against the council.

Yesterday be secured victory when a sheriff sitting in Lanark, 15 miles east of Glasgow, ruled that the cbeese was safe. Sheriff John Douglas Allan said: "It cheese failed to comply with food safety requirements ... The cheese is not likely to be injurious to health." Dismissing earlier rulings that it should be

destroyed, he said some 63,000 portions had been consumed in 1994 without illness.

Sheriff Allan went oo to criticise Clydesdale council's ment for using flawed tech-niques. So-called experts were ill-informed and had been dog-matic and unduly rigid, he said. He "deplored" the council's combative and confrontation-

Mr Errington, who raised thousands of pounds from sym-pathisers in his campaign to protect cheeses like Lanark Blue, which is made from unpasteurised milk, celebrated last night by holding a party with his seven staff at his dairy at Dunsyre in Lanarkshire.

He said the judgment would "send shock waves through all regulatory authorities ... This is a tremendous victory for tradi-tional food makers."

Mr Errington is now planning to sue the council for damages. "I am considering a complaint does not appear to me upon the evidence that the Lanark Blue maladministration by Clydesmaladministration by Clydesdale council and possibly ask-ing the Audit Commission to surcharge councillors for their behaviour." The council faces legal bills of nearly £200,000.

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Song of Contrariety

By Robert Graves

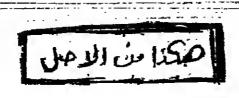
Far away is close at hand, Close joined is far away, Love shall come at your command Yet will not stay. At summons of your dream-despair

She might not disobey, But slid close down beside you there. And complaisant lay. Yet now her flesh and blood consent

In the hours of day, Joy and passion both are spent, Twining clean away.

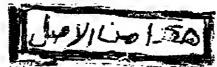
Is the person empty air, Is the sceptre clay, That love, lent substance by despair, Wanes and leaves you lonely there On the bridal day?

In the centenary year of Robert Graves's birth, Carcanet Press have recently published the first volume (1910-26) of his Complete Poems, with the second volume to follow in 1996. By 1926, when be was 31, Graves bad produced 19 books, of which 11 were of verse. This poem, typical of the rhythmic ballad form which Graves employed in his early work, first appeared in Whippergium (1923). He was yet to meet the American poet Laura Riding with whom he was to have a long affair and whose influence was to change the style and direction of his poetry. Graves died on 7 December 1958.



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# Judge adjourns to new year to ease pressure on jurors

JOHN WILLCOCK Financial Correspondent

The Maxwell trial came to an unexpected half yesterday when purors told the judge they would feel under pressure if they were sent out to consider their verdicts before Christmas. So, instead of summing up

and sending the jury out next week, as he had intended; Lord Justice Phillips adjourned the trial, now in its seventh month, until the new year.

He told the seven women and five men that he did not want them to feel under any pressure and he said their request had shown "some wisdom".

He told them: "All that remains is to wish you a very hap-py Christmas," and they left court for the extended break

On Tuesday the judge had told the jury he planned to begin summing up next Monday and hoped to finish at the end of the week, when the jury would then be sent to consider their verdicts, spending the night at a hotel. If the jurous had

The Maxwell Trial

not agreed verdicts by 22 December, the judge said, they would be allowed home to celebrate Christmas and would return to resume their deliberations on 27 December.

But yesterday the jury sent the judge a note saying they were feeling concerned that af-ter a long and complex trial they are under pressure regarding their deliberation process".

The note said the jury felt various pressures - the time of year, the ill health of family members and a concern that a break in deliberations "may not be conducive to our decision" It added: "It would be prefer-

process after Christmas and we would appreciate this con-

They sent a further message to the judge: "We feel that we are essentially in a position of having a time-scale due to the holiday seasou rather than the opportunity for an open-ended

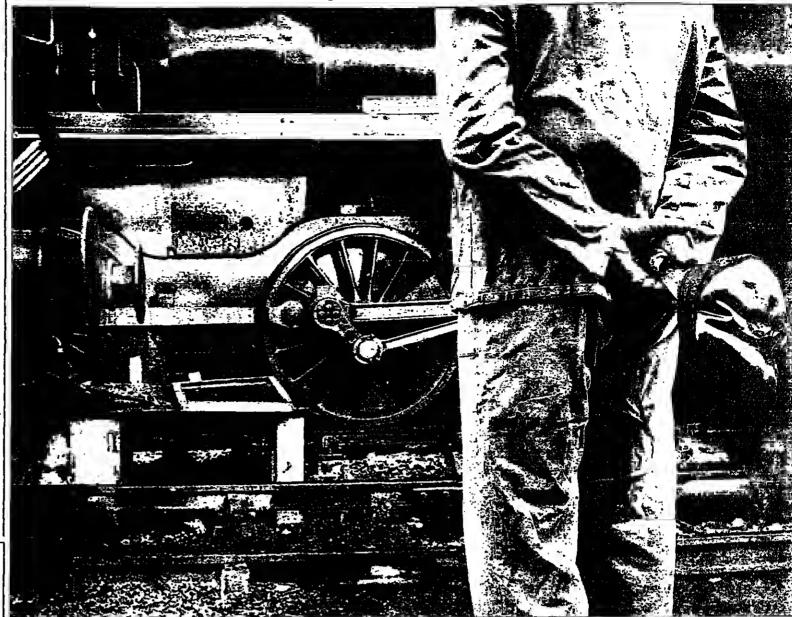
The judge assured the jury that "at this stage of the trial, and indeed throughout, you are the most important people. I am not going to send you out to consider verdicts if you are going to feel under pressure". The jury sent the judge another note saying they did not want any break from when he

began his summing up until they had reached verdicts. The judge adjourned the court until 3 January, when he

would begin summing up. Kevin Maxwell, his brother Ian, and the former Maxwell executive Larry Trachtenberg deny conspiracy to defraud by misusing shares belonging to the pension fund.

THUNDER IN PARADISE

### New line in burials: One-way ticket to cemetery targets locomotive buffs



Sign of respect: Harry Barker, an engineer on Llangollen railway with one of three locomotives to be used for burials

# Full steam ahead to railway heaven

LOUISE JURY

It is the one-way ticket to heaven for railway fans. Along an eight-mile stretch of railway in North Wales the ultimate funeral service is being prepared for steam train buffs.

Peace Burials, a Lancashire company specialising in alternative funerals, spotted a chink in the post-death market. And it is now going into partnership with the Llangollen railway to draw deceased steam enthusiasts along one of the most scenic train routes in Britain to their final resting place.

The unique service will car-

and found himself at the head

of a huge construction business.

Trafalgar bought Beaver-

brook Newspapers in 1977 and Matthews soon added the first

tabloid in 75 years, the Daily Star, to the stable. He often ran Express News-papers like his old builder's yard,

but journalists yesterday paid

Derek Jameson, a former

Daily Express editor, said be was more at home with bricks

and ships than newspapers, but

he took up the challenge with

Obituary, page 22

urbute to his skills.

energy and courage".

to be completed in the spring at Carrog, eight miles away.

A hudget price of £25 will

transport the coffin while mourners travel on the normal service train. But for £3,000 to £4,000 the train can be pulled by a special black locomotive with four bars and two restaurants to service a wake for up to 200 mourners.

A hearse drawn by blackplumed horses could be on hand for the final few feet to the cemetery, where Carrog community council has given permission for railway fans from Mr Keyse. outside the Corwen valley to be

removal to a churchyard anywhere in the country.

"There is no question of bad taste," said Colin Keyse, the commercial manager of the railway, which was saved from ruin in 1975 and restored by volunteers.

It already lays on functions such as wedding receptions and Christmas-time trips to visit Santa. "To some extent we're resurrecting an established railway procedure. Almost since the 1830s, coffins have been carried on trains in this country." said

The railway had been guid-

Clwyd, and a new terminus due returning to road for final directors. "There is a growing market for people who want to make funerals a celebration of life. It's the kind of thing which will appeal to steam fans, It is easy to forget now that for a

> travel by train was a very large part of life 25 or 30 years ago. "Travelling behind a steam trum is evocative of a way of life which people see as having

large section of the population.

gone and hanker after." Although the initiative, to be launched next year, is not expected to be a money-spinner. Llangollen Railway and Peace Burials have signed a seven year contract.

many requests from people wanting a railway theme to their burial. It followed on from other tailor-made funerals the firm had arranged. Woodland burials were a favourite, where ashes are sown to feed a newly-planted tree in the dead person's memory.

Peace Burials aim to be as flexible as possible, she said. John Mallatrat, her husband and a company director, said burial was not the only option for steam fans. "We can arrange a cremation." he said. "With the deceased's ashes being scattered or put into the



MICRO MACHINES

SEE THE COMET PRICE INDEX DAILY ON THE BET EN Ch.4 P.425

this Christmas

R COME TO

Victor Matthews, newspaper baron, dies MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent Lord Matthews of Southgate, who started life as an office boy and retired a millionaire newspaper baron, died on Tuesday. The former chairman of Express Newspapers was accom-panied by his only son, Iau, when he died of cancer at his farmhouse near St Bredlades. Jersey. It was his 76th birthday. Lord Matthews was a man whose commercial acumen was Bosch Mini matched by his enthusiasm for newspapers and his devotion to 268-99 Margaret Thatcher, who made him a life peer in 1980. Victor Collin Matthews was born in Islington, north London, in December 1919. He started his career as an office boy on 25 shillings a week, going to night school to improve his education. He was a seaman during the First World War, returning to start a building firm. In 1964 he sold a stake to Trafalgar House,



the subject to mortaining Offer applies to all coolboids and selected Boach power tools. Available from Here, but stone until 21th December 1995. Furthers a must be paid for in tall and in person of the store between 3rd December 1995 and 27th December 1995. The 20% of the other on to discuss applies to all marked price

# Labour set to tackle football hooligans

JOHN RENTOUL and COLIN BROWN

A Labour government would crack down on British football hooligans abroad by discouraging other European Union countries from simply rounding up troublemakers and innocent supporters together and shipping them all back.
In a "Football Charter" to be

launched today, Labour will propose a Europe-wide register of violent supporters and call for EU police forces to prosecute repeat offenders. The aim is to stop thugs travelling abroad, getting thrown out and then doing it again - copying the suc-cess of British authorities in excluding persistent offenders

from grounds. The charter accepts that domestic football violence has been much reduced, but says more can he done on the home froot as well. It says a Labour government would "aid the progressive transfer to welltrained stewards" of many functions carried out by the police, thus freeing police resources for intelligence work and cutting the costs of policing to clubs.

would also want to look at the broadcasting, oot on the basis consistency of financial charges of any one individual or any one consistency of financial charges imposed by the police for policing matches - some of the fees are driving the smaller clubs to bankruptcy.

The Football Charter, which follows an Anglers' Charter, is part of the party's populist drive to identify with mass culture.

Jack Cunningham, Labour's national beritage spokesman, is also expected to write to the Government shortly outlining his concern about Sky Television's purchase of the rights to the first, second and third divi-

sions of the Football League. The issue is cootroversial because Labour hopes to oeutralise the anti-Labour propaganda in oewspapers owned by Rupert Murdoch. But many Labour MPs are critical of the Sky football deal because it means their constituents cannot see live Eoglish league football

without owning a satellite dish. There is also coocern about the allegations of anti-competitive practices being made against the Murdoch empire by cable televisioo companies. Mr Cunningham said: "We are approaching this issue from the point of view of ownership and of between 10 and 15.

organisation."

The main theme of the charter is supporters' rights, and it promises to give genuine football supporters a say over the future of the sport for the first time - provided their representative bodies can "get their act together". The two main supporters' bodies, the Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs and the Football Supporters Association, would have to combine, the source said.

Tom Pendry, Labour's sports spokesman, is expected to an-nounce today that in govern-ment Labour would set up a "task force" of representatives of spectators, players and clubs to look at a range of issues, in-cluding "bungs", laws against ticket touts and the way the sport's ruling body is run.
Labour sources claim already

to have put pressure on the Football Association to streamline its decision-making. Last mooth the FA's chief executive. Graham Kelly, failed with a plan to delegate the powers of the organisatioo's 90-plus councillors to an executive committee



Battleground: Labour's 'Football Charter' targets violent fans and alms to give genuine supporters a bigger say

# Blair to take 'education crusade' to the country

DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

Tony Blair is to hold an unprecedented series of open public meetings for teachers and parents next year to secure backing for Labour's planned crackdown oo bad schools and

The Labour leader an-

nounced last night that he inteoded to take to the road "in a crusade for standards", which party officials said was designed to prove that the adverse and highly publicised reaction of teachers' unions was not representative of the majority views of individual teachers.

spokesman, would be holding a series of meetings for teachers and pareots "of all political persuasions" oext year and added: "We are mounting a cru-sade for standards and I want parents and teachers to feel a part of it."

David Blankett, his education Blair conducted among party members to secure backing for a new Clause IV - will be conducted on an "everyone welcome" hasis, Mr Blair said.

At the same time he sought to rebuff Tory attacks on the 10strong Labour Commons rebellion over income tax oo Mr Blair told a CBI Loodoo
Region dinner that he and concept to the campaign Mr size of that rebellion far from

portending trouble in govern-ment, firmly underlines where cess economy." the centre of gravity in our party now lies and the direction in

which the party is moving." He added: "Not long ago there would have been a natural kneejerk desire to vote against any cut in income tax ... But no goes something like this. You're more. There is a very clear un- all right Mr Blair but we are not derstanding that high tax should so sure about the rest of the par-

Mr Blair prefaced his re-

marks oo the rebellion, which included former Treasury minister Denzil Davies, "by tackling head on the most common concern that is raised with me. It

ty. We are not so sure that you can take them with you in gov-

The rebellion - smaller than on Europe and defence esti-mates in the past - and the publication of Labour's new schools standards document "provided two very important indications of the extent to which the par-

# MP backs Bill to ban animal cruelty

A Bill to make it an offence to inflict cruelty on foxes, squirrels and other wild animals is to be revived today by a Labour MP, writes Colin Brown.

kee

The Wild Mammals Protection Bill, which was killed in the Lords in the last session of Parliament, is expected to be taken up again today by Alan Meale, MP for Mansfield. The Bill is likely to disappoint the League Against Cruel Sports because it will not seek to ban fox hunting, stag hunting or hare coursing. But the sponsors have limited its scope to enhance its chances of becoming law.

A similar Bill aroused controversy when it was launched a year ago because it would have banned all forms of hunting with hounds and its sponsor, John McFall, was forced to abandoo the anti-hunting clauses. It ran into more opposition in the House of Lords and was finally killed through lack of parlia-mentary time, although it had passed all its Commons stages. Mr Meale came second in the ballot of MPs for the right to in-

troduce a backbench Bill and is guaranteed a full day for debate io January. The Bill would make it an offence for the first time to kick, beat, impale, crush or drown wild animals.

The Bill has the backing of the RSPCA. "It would give wild animals the same protection that the 1911 Protection of Animals Act gives captive ani-mals," it said. "At the moment there is no legal protection for wild mammals unless they are a protected species."

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# Dobson homes in on asbestos row

CHRIS BLACKHURST Westminster Correspondent

The Director of Public Prosecutions has been asked to order a police investigation into homeless families being moved into asbestos-ridden flats by Westminster council.

Fixank Dobson, Labour's co. ing Westminster, that inquiry, anyone knowingly entanged. I be found that the property of the people's being connected by John Mag. I amilies. This is what they did had also written to the Health. It is district anchor, is for It is become clearer and clear and Safety Executive to see if curing on the council's policy. Fertiliat his council knowingly protecutions should be brought salled the abstracted by John West and the property of the council knowing protecutions should be brought salled the council's policy. Fertiliat his council knowingly entanged to the property of the council knowingly entanged to the property of the council of the property of the pr

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mer Tory leaders filled two "It is my view that before the blocks of flats in a solid Labour asbestos scandal arose, Westward in Paddington with bomeless families rather than move them to key marginal wards elsewhere in the borough.

with the long-running "homes mons: "There is no endanger-for votes" inquiry, also involvant the lives of other people's charge of the lives of the lives of other people's charge of the lives of t Mr Dobson drew parallels

asbestos scandal arose, Westminster bad dragged Loodon politics into the gutter - they have now got it down into the septic tank." He told MPs in the Com-

Mr Dobson also demanded the Government obtain a copy of a report being prepared for the current Westminster council by John Barratt, former chief executive of Cambridgeshire council, and make it available to Parliament.

Labour also went on the offensive oo another aspect of Westminster, asking the Government to explain why it has vetoed the council being included in an official survey of local authorities' complaints

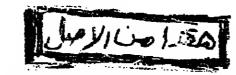


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# Will the world's fur trade prove as successful at twisting arms as they are at breaking.

In 1991, the Council
of the European Community took a decision which
was applianced around the world.

With millions of animals dying an agonising death in leg-hold traps, the EC banned their use among member states from January 1st, 1995.

The EC Council at the same time voted to ban fur imports from countries which used the same barbaric methods of killing.

Tragically, only the ban affecting member states has so far been enacted.

Due to pressure from the main trapping nations (Canada and the USA) the European Commissioners decided to postpone the ban on imported furs until January 1st, 1996.

And now, the same pressure has apparently persuaded them to propose postponing the ban again (possibly even lifting it altogether).

The fur trade cannot be allowed to get away with it.

Environment Secretary John Gummer has clearly stated that ... "the UK Government has made it absolutely clear that it's not prepared to have a postponement of this sort" (Today, BBC Radio 4, November 18th, 1995).

Please write now to your MP at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA and to your

Euro MP at the European Parliament, Brussels B 1049 Belgium, urging them to stand firm against any proposals by the European Commission to delay or scrap the fur import ban.

Mr Gummer deserves all our support.

Or January 1st, 1996 will be the start of just another miserable New Year for millions of animals.













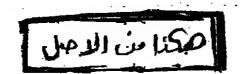








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news

Galileo space probe: Nasa scientists wait nervously for news of \$1.6bn flight to explore the solar system's largest planet

# Jupiter mission reaches most dangerous stage

TOM WILKIE Science Editor

Scientists around the world will wait anxiously tonight for confirmation that the \$1.6bn Galileo space mission to Jupiter has successfully completed the most perilous stage of its six-year, 2.3 billion-roile (3.7 billioncilometre) journey.

The main space probe must first monitor the final, fiery moments of a "daughter" craft which will plunge deep into the Jovian atmosphere. Then, in a quick planetary ballet, it must manoeuvre itself into orbit around our solar system's

largest planet:
As the instrument-laden spaceship nears Jupiter's system, it is expected to absorb a dose of radiation 35 to 40 times greater than would kill a human. We have everything crossed we can cross - fingers and toes and all like that. It's certainly a nervous time," said William O'Neil, Galileo project manager at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

But the scientists at JPL, which manages the Galileo mission, and at Nasa's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, which built the probe, will have to be satisfied with a delayed confirmation that the probe is sending signals and that the orbiter is on course. Radio als take 52 minutes to trav-

el from Jupiter to Earth. No pictures or atmospheric data will be available until after information captured on Galileo's tape recorder and its computer is relayed to Earth through Deep Space Network stations in California, Spain and Australia. A first look will not be available until late this

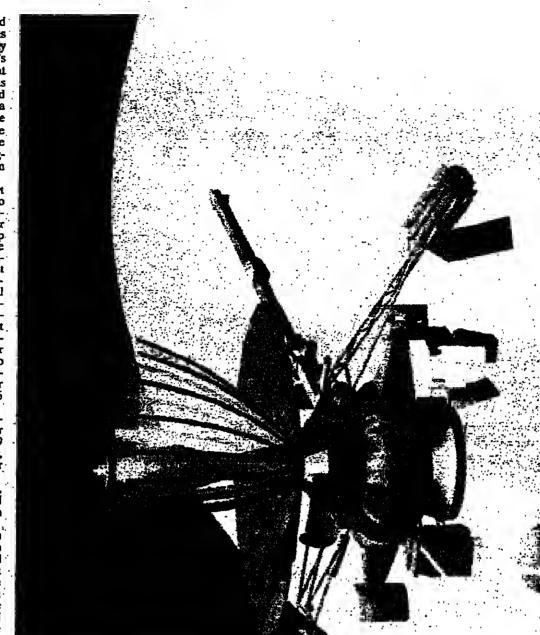
Tonight, the cone-shaped atmospheric probe which was released from the orbiter in July should slam into Jupiter's dense, gaseous atmosphere at 106,000mph. If it enters as planned, it will slow down and parachute through ammonia clouds to a realm never before explored. It will tell the mother ship what it sees inside Jupiter's layers of lightningpierced clouds and may even detect water rain.

But if the scientists do not get the 746ib (338kg) probe into Jupiter's atmosphere at exactly the right angle, it will either bounce into oblivion or burn up too quickly. The plan is that the atmospheric probe will eventually melt and vaporise, but it should transmit up to 75 minutes of data about chemical composition, radiation, temperature, wind, and atmospheric pressure before contact is cut off. The signals transmitted to the 2.5-ton main orbiter for eventual retransmission to ground control will give scientists their first view of the inner reaches of Jupiter, which is 316 times larger than Earth.

After monitoring its daugh-ter craft's fate, the main orbiter should fire its engines for 49 minutes to enter a two-year, looping orbit around Jupiter and eight of its 16 moons.

-.. Those moons include Io. which is highly volcanic, and Ganymede, the largest moon in

Planning for the mission started nearly 20 years ago, in 1978. More than \$300m had been spent by 1981 on a project that was supposed to be launched in 1984 and to reach Jupiter by July 1987. But the whole mission was delayed and then derailed following the



### Countdown to orbit

1989: Galileo is launched from space studie Atlantis.

February Circles Venus using its gravity as a sling-shot to give it more energy for its trip to Jupiter

1990: December First of two swings round the Earth to add further

1991: Main antenna fails to open properly forcing Nasa to rely on auxiliary communications channel which can only transmit data slowly depart in the direction of Jupiter

1995: July Cone-shaped atmospheric probe released from the main orbiter to pursue its own path to Jupiter

November: Malfunction of on-board tape recorder raises fears that the tape may have broken, leaving Galileo unable to record any scientific data. Tests show it may be salvageable December 7: Atmospheric probe hits the planet's dense atmosp

at 106,000 mph. For 75 minutes, the probe should transmit data about the composition of the atmospheric gases before high temperatures and pressures 20 times those of Earth's atmosphere out off contact For the next 49 minutes, the orbiter's engines should like to brake it into a two-year, looping orbit around Jupiter and eight of its 18 moons December 12 to 28: Disruption in communications when the Sun blocks the path between Earth and Jupiter End December: A first look at data and pictures should be available



The Hubble space telescope's view of the distinctive coloured bands in Jupiter's atmosphere. The arrow indicates the point of entry of Galileo's

# Man accused of killing | Quarter of young homeless have tried suicide wife tells of gang ordeal

A man charged with murdering seemed unusual. I thought Car-his wife choked back tears yes- oil had gone to bed as she was

Gordon Wardell, 42, denies was a cloth put across my face murdering Carol, 39, a building and nose.

Society manager, at their home "My knees were kicked from society manager, at their home in Meriden, Warwickshire, in September last year before allegedly faking a raid at her I could see Carol and the man branch and concocting a character and control of the settler.

on the edge of the settler.

on the edge of the settler.

"He said to me: 'Do what are told. Keep quiet and down on the floor.'

Wardell told the jury at Oxford Crown Court that he got morning to find himself alone, home at 10pm after a drink to find his wife being held hostage.

His his voice faltered as he der the skin. I was scared.

"He said to me: 'Do what you are told. Keep quiet and get down on the floor.'

broke down and said: "Nothing frightened and worried."

dition police found him in 14 terday as he told a court how he suffering from period pain. hours after he returned home. returned home to find her be"As I got in my arms were. He was then taken to hospital ing held at knifepoint by a gang grabbed from both sides and where he was later told his of vicious masked robbers. then forced up my back. There wife was dead.

Asked about the effect of attending a news conference in the hunt for his wife's killer two days later, Wardell said it had heen traumatic and he had

wheelchair than walk unaided. He denied his limp after the incident was faked to impress insurance staff from the Woolwich

where his wife worked. Asked finally by his counsel if he had killed his wife, Wardell's voice raised and he answered: "Absolutely not".

### GLENDA COOPER The survey follows last week's atric disorder as those who are questioned had experienced senot homeless. The disorders

A quarter of young homeless people have attempted suicide in the last year, according to a

new mental health survey.

The survey by the Mental Health Foundation found that young homeless people are also

twice as likely to suffer psychi-

they suffered from were also likely to be more severe and persistent than disorders among those with a home. Only 15 per cent of those with

a current psychiatric diagnosis have ever had psychiatric help. Over half of the 161 people

vere parental neglect or abuse in childhood and 40 per cent had spent time in care. Three times as many of the parents of hometess young people had re-ceived psychiatric treatment. mainly for alcohol abuse, compared with the parents of those

who were not homeless.

Budget which changed benefits to under-25s living in rented accommodation. The Mental Health Foundation says it is feared that the changes, which mean housing benefit will only meet the cost of shared accommodation, will lead to an increase in the number of young

people who rely on the benefit

June McKerrow, director of the foundation, said: "Our research clearly shows that young homeless people are vulnerable to mental health problems and some are so desperate about their futures that suicide seems the only answer."

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# international

Bosnia settlement: French President warms Milosevic of unspecified action if he fails to produce pilots shot down in August

# Heal the wounds of youngest victims

in the run-up to Christmas the Independent is asking readers to support four charities working to help child victims of the wars in former Yugoslavia:

Save the Children is focusing its efforts on children who have been separated from their families, counselling and reuniting them;

largest humanitarian operation in the region, looking after refugee camps and linking children to Britain for treatment people through its messaging network:

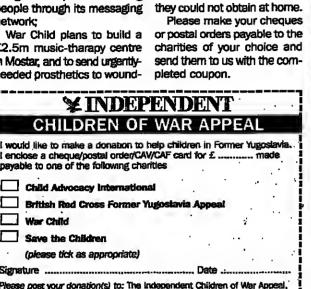
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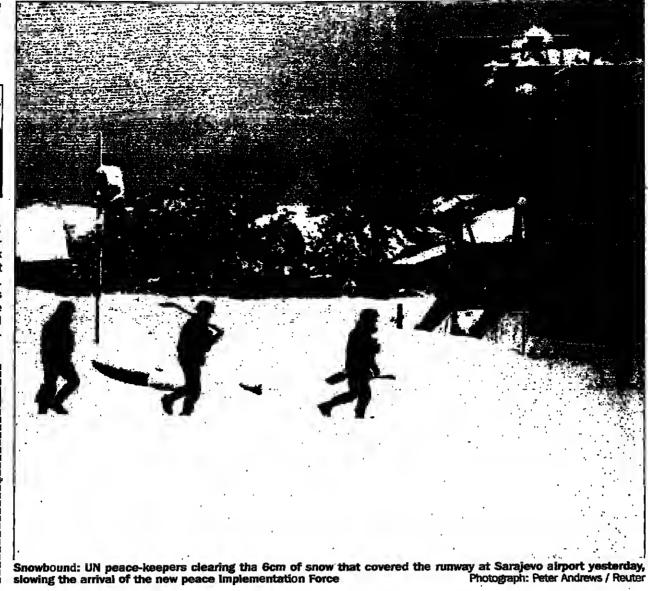


The Red Cross is running the ed children in the Tuzla area; Child Advocacy International aims to bring up to 100 sick

they could not obtain at home. Please make your cheques War Child plans to build a or postal orders payable to the £2.5m music-tharapy centre charities of your choice and in Mostar, and to send urgently- send them to us with the com-



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SAVE # 80 ON MATSU



The French President, Jacques Chirac, yesterday warned his Serbian counterpart to produce two French pilots shot down over Serb-held Bosnia three months ago or face unspecified consequences.

Mr Chirac, who has receotly demanded greater safety guarantees for Serbs who are to come under government rule next month, raised the issue in a telephone call to Belgrade yesterday, his spokeswoman said, though she gave no details of the

conversation.
"The President had a new telephone call with President [Slobodan] Milosevic on Wednesday morning and told him that if the two French pilots were not released in the coming days. France would be forced to draw all the appropriate conclusions." Catherine Colonna said. But she said there was no question of postponing the Paris peace conference, scheduled for 14 December, until the pilnts' release, as de manded by their wives.

Captain Frédéric Chiffot and Lieutenant José Souvignet disappeared on 30 August after ejecting from their Mirage 2000 as it plunged towards a hill near the rebel Serb headquarters at Pale, east of Sarajevo. Many UN and Nato officials believe the men are dead, because Radovan Karadzic recently claimed they had been kidnapped by un-known forces, and because they were not used as a bargaining chip by the Serbs at the peace talks in Dayton, Ohio last month.
"The most commonly held

view here is that if they existed and were alive, they would have been cashed in at Dayton," one official said, "For example: OK, if we get Grbavica [a Serb suburb of the capital due to revert to government control]
you get the pilots."

Last week Mr Chirac wrote to the US President, Bill Clinton, urging the international community to strengthen safeguards for Serbs living in Grbavica and four other suburbs ceded to the government at Dayton. "That was definitely linked to the French pilots - that was the right noise the Serbs would want to hear;" the offi-cial said, "in that Chirac was saying to the Serbs: Twill raise with Clinton what I know are your concerns over Grbavica etc'."

France will be the third-largest troop contributor to the Nato peace Implementation Force (I-For), which has the dif-ficult task of reuniting Sarajevo within 90 days of the transfer of authority in Bosnia from the UN to Nato. That is expected on 18 December.

Arafat Wals f

Preparations for I-For's arrival are under way in Bosnia, with most attention focused nn the new boys: the 20,000 US troops who are tn deploy around the northern town of Tuzla. Yesterday a US Air Force cargo plane became the first ing aircraft in land at the UN air base in Tuzla for more than a year - the runways were closed far most of the war by Serb shelling

Colonel Neal Patton nf the US Air Force and Lt-Col Sid Kooyman, an army liaisoo officer, flew into Tuzla yesterday to inspect the air base and be-



Chirac: Phoned President

gin setting up for the arrival, af-ter Paris, of their soldiers. Although the Americans have dispatched several reconnaissance teams to the area, Coi Kooyman and his comrades represent the first wave of Daytoo peace-keepers to reach the industrial city.

Col Patton told reporters he was "absolutely" satisfied with security at the air base. The same could oot be said for the press corps, struggling with technical terms and a distinct lack of information. Asked about the alleged impeoding arrival of plane-loads of US troops, Col Patton replied: "Hopefully we will start some measured flow. but again it's based on how we do our load-planning." Would they theo come in by land? The colonel did not know, but could reveal that: "We are in an air phase right oow."





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# international

Death in Valletta: When the Islamic Jihad chief was shot, he and Iranian agents had been planning assassination of the PLO 'traitor'

# Arafat murder 'was foiled by Malta killing'

PATRICK COCKBURN SAFA HAERI

Pathi Shkaki, leader of the militant Palestinian Islamic Jihad organisation, who was shot dead in Malta in October, had just met a senior Iranian envoy in Libya to discuss the assa nation of Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the PLO

Iran believes the PLO passed details of Shkaki's travel plans and false passport to Israel. which then arranged for him to be killed outside his notel in Valletta, a source with access to Iranian intelligence has told the Independent.

Shkaki, whose group has car-ried out a series of suicide bombings against Israeli targets; was based in Damascus. In October he went to Libya, where he met Hussein Shaikholeslam, Iranian deputy minister for foreign affairs with responsibility for the Arah world, who is also believed to be deputy head of Iranian intelligence.

The source says they discussed the murder of Mr Arafat, hated by Iran and Islamic Jihad for his co-operation with Israel and the US in signing the Oslo peace accords. It is not clear that Libya was aware of what they were discussing, though Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, is opposed to Oslo and recently started to expel 30,000 Palestinians from Libya to put pressure on the PLO.

Mr Shaikholeslam has long played an important role in Iranian covert operations, He was a leader in the takeover of the US embassy in Tehran in 1979. In 1983 US intelligence believed he helped to organise the suicide truck bomb which killed 241 American Marines in Beirut. He is the liaison between the foreign ministry and Vezarat-e-Ettelat, or dren, according to a Maltese porting terrorists" and said:

**Jecia** 

ports:

-U-BAG

information ministry, which is police investigation. On his rein fact Iranian intelligence.

There was a good reason why Shkaki and Mr Shaiknolesiam chose to meet in Libya. Islamic Jihad has its beadquarters in Damascus, but is closely watched by Syrian intelligence. Iran, although allied to Syria, fears Syria will start ne-gotiations with Israel. Col Gaddafi, on the other hand, allowed Abu Nidal to use Libya as a base when he had Abu Iyad,



Fathi Shkaki: PLO fingered him for the hit-squad

Mr Arafat's chief heutenant, assassinated in 1991.

On the morning of 26 October Shkaki returned by ship to Malta from Libya. He may have travelled with Mr Shaikholeslam, who later lamented on Iranian radio that Shkaki had decided to break his journey in Malta at the last moment. He was wearing a wig, had shaved off his beard and had a forged Libya passport in the name of Ibrahim Dawish. He took a room in the Diplomat hotel in a suburb of Valletta.

where he had stayed before. Soon after he checked in Shkaki went out to some local

turn two men were waiting for him on a motorcycle, one of whom walked up to him and

Mossad, the Israeli external

ister, came close to admitting it. Could PLO intelligence have tipped off Mossad about the whereabouts of Shkaki, as the Iranians believe?

leaders ever since two of its suialive, since the implementa-Oslo as a betrayal of the Pales-

Once relations were warmer.

But Mr Arafat was neither militant nor Islamic enough for the alliance to last. By March this year he was accusing Iran and Syria of fomenting trouble in the Middle East and creating unrest for the Palestinian authority; now estabshops to buy shirts for his chil- He warned Iran "to ston sun-

shot him six times in the head. As Shkaki fell, his assassin jumped on to the motorcycle. which was driven off and was found abandoned under a bridge by the jetty of a yacht harhour. Investigators believe the killers were taken off by boat.

intelligence organisation, does not lay claim to assassinations. but was widely assumed in Is-rael to be behind the killing. Ephraim Sneh, the Health Min-

Mossad had reportedly been looking to kill Islamic Jihad cide bombers killed 21 Israeli soldiers at Beit Lid in Israel in January. Israel also has every reason to try to keep Mr Arafat tion of the Oslo accords depends on his survival. For the same reason Islamic Jihad and the Iranian leadership, who see tinians, have a good reason to kill the PLO chairman.

After the overthrow of the Shah by Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979 Mr Arafat was the first foreign leader to be received by the revolutionaries in Tehran. He said: "Every Iranian freedom fighter is represented in the Palestinian revolution.

lished in Gaza and Jeriebo.

death of Shkaki. He was their Your oil, your money and your bombs will not open the smallest footpath for you on one cen-

Mr Arafat's security forces were also putting pressure on Islamic Jihad in Gaza and were being accused of collaborating with the Israelis. On the West Bank, Jibril Rajoub, head of Palestinian Preventive Security, based in Jericho, has notoriously cordial relations with the Israeli Shin Bet domestic security service. In October the second stage of the Oslo agreement was signed by Mr Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin. The peace deal was becoming irreversible. Iran was distraught at the

timetre of Palestinian soil."

closest ally among the Palestinians and considered a "son" of the Islamic revolution. He had written a book entitled: Khomeini, the Alternative Solution. He said once that when the Iranian revolution succeeded "1 realised that Islam could overcome even a country like the United States." There are Jihad training camps near Qom. 100

miles south of Tehran. When Shkaki's death was confirmed. Iran declared a day of mourning and the radio news was devoted entirely to tributes to him. On I November there were marches with slogans in praise of the dead Jihad leader

and against Zionism, the US and Mr Arafat, When Rahin was assassinated three days later, Iranian radio said: "While Arafat said he was shocked by the news of Rabin's assassination. Palestinian people rejoiced, distributed sweetmeats,

thanked God and danced." The source close to Iranian intelligence says it is still intent on promoting Mr Arafat's as-sassination. It has talked with

Ahmed Jibril, head of the Pop-ular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. which has long had offices in Tehran. Jihad launched two failed suicide bomb attacks against Israeli targets in the Gaza Strip soon after its leader died but has since been silent. The organisation was small and very much a one-man band under Shkaki, so it may be severely disrupted by his death.

Mr Arafat, who has heard reports of Iranian plans to assassinate him, said mildly in an interview with the Independent in Gaza that "a large majority of the Iranians are supporting the Palestinian people." He reminded Iranian leaders that he had supported them in the past. adding. "No one can affect the Palestinian independent decision, it helongs only to the Palestinian people.



IN BRIEF

### France plans early end to tests

Paris - France's last nuclear test blast in the south Pacific will be before the end of February, several months ahead of sched-ule, the Defence Minister, Charles Millon, said yesterday. France, which has set off four underground blasts in French Polynesia since September, has pledged to sign a nuclear test-ban treaty as soon as the series is complete. Outrage over President Jacques Chirac's decision to break a three-year moratorium on testing has already prompted Paris to say it will reduce the planned eight tests to six. France insists the tests are necessary to ensure the viability of its independent nuclear force and develop simulation technology to make further tests unnecessary. "The analysis of the fourth test has proven that it and the three prior ones have allowed us to obtain the scientific data expected."

### Papandreou 'worsens'

Athens - The health of the Prime Minister, Andreas Papandreou. worsened yesterday. Doctors were to perform a tracheotomy after failing to disconnect him from life support machinery. "As the use of the respirator is expected to continue a tracheotomy was decrned necessary," a medical hulletin said. In a tracheotomy doctors make a slit in the windpipe and create a breathing hole. This will allow them to remove a tube that has snaked down Mr Papandreou's throat since he was hooked to the respirator. Af

### Pizza 'can ward off prostate cancer'

Washington – US researchers have found that pizza and spag-hetti sauce can protect against prostate cancer. A Harvard study over six years of the eating habits of 47,000 men found that those who had at least 10 servings a week of tomato-based foods were

### up to 45 per cent less likely to develop prostate cancer. Tigers reject amnesty offer

Colombo - Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger separatists dismissed President Chandrika Kumaratunga's offer of amnesty for those who lay down their arms, saying they did not wish to submit to domination by the army. A spokesman said the rebels had no choice hut to "continue with the resistance against military occupation" of the northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna.

### Gonzalez hints at standing down

Madrid - Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez hinted he may not lead the Socialists in a general election next March, saving he did not want lo drag down his party. "I don't want lo have happen to me what happened to Margaret Thateber, who didn't realise she was a problem," Mr Gonzalez said.

AP

### Bouncer comes down with a bump

Stockholm - A 130kg (286lb) houncer was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment for suffocating a restaurant guest by sitting on him. Witnesses told a court in Gallivare, northern Sweden, that the doorman, who was not identified, had intervened

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# Major and Dini warn of EU monetary chaos

ANDREW GUMBEL Florence

John Major and the Italian made a joint appeal to their European Union partners yester-day for an in-depth analysis of the effects of monetary union, saying that the consequences of getting EMU wrong could be chaos across the continent.

The two leaders, meeting in Florence, appeared to find com-mon cause in discussing the two biggest economies likely to be sidelined in the moves towards a single European currency -Britain because it is reluctant to join, Italy because its economy is unlikely to be strong enough.
Political sources at the som-

along with France, would press for a detailed analysis of EMU at next week's summit in Madrid. Both leaders noted that only a minority of member-states is likely to meet the criteria for monetary union laid down by the Masstricht treaty, and that plans must therefore be made for the countries left out.

"Monetary union will effect everybody whether they take part in it or not," Mr Major said. "If it proceeds, or when it proceeds, it has got to be right, otherwise it will cause chaos and difficulty across Europe." With France hit by a growing

wave of strikes as a direct result of its efforts to meet the Maastricht criteria, countries across the EU are becoming painfully aware of the dangers of im-posing excessively austere strictures on their economies at and generally slow growth.

analysis of monetary union covering import and export markets, foreign exchange trading agricultural policy and pos-sible social problems - would force the BU to address the mounting difficulties facing its single currency project and perhaps create mechanisms for on-qualifying countries to join logue, oot coercion," he said. "This is something that they [the French] should bear in mind." non-qualifying countries to join after the present 1999 deadline.

platform was an attempt to de-lay monetary union, saying there were still two years to go before the third and final phase of the process got uoder way. But Mr Dini knows, despite his that Italy could never meet the criteria as they stand and that his country's best hope is to find a back door by which to enter after 1999.

The two countries appeared to differ, at least in tone, on that that back door should be. Mr Major rejected the idea that non-EMU countries should create some kind of currency grid akin to the present Ex-

change Rate Mechanism. Mr Dini, however, said there had to be a "reasonable degree

mestic interest in Italy, as Mr Dini is trying to extend his temporary mandate as Prime Minister to the end of Italy's term as EU president, which runs from January to June next year. On Tuesday he asked parliament to leave him in office long enough to prepare a super-austere 1997 budget.

Yesterday, he denied that such a measure would lead to kind of decision requires dia-

# **Kohl and Chirac** forge new Europe

MARY DEJEVSKY

The President of France and the Chancellor of Germany have sent a joint letter to other European leaders, setting out their common position on the future of the European Union.

The letter, to be made public today as Jacques Chirac and Helmut Kohl meet for their latest summit in the German spa town of Baden Baden, contains recommendations for the reform of EU institutions in the run-up to next year's inter-gov-ernmental conference (IGC), overall direction the European Unioo should take.

Refusing to divulge exact details of the letter yesterday, the French President's spokesman, Catherine Colonna, stressed that it was "a basis for reflection and discussion" and directed at making the EU "more effective, more democratic and closer to ordinary citizens". Even in her four-point outline, however, there were indications that some of the Franco-German positions would oot please the British government.

France and Germany, it was suggested, want the EU to have a much higher international profile, a wish that appears to presuppose a common foreign

The Franco-German letter also reportedly calls for closer criteria for monetary union.

cooperation in judicial and police matters, especially on ques-tions of "asylum and immigration", but also against terrorism, crime and drugs. While clearly intended to allay German fears about French backsliding on the Scheogen treaty oo opeo borders (and perhaps allow France to postpooe implementation looger question of judicial and police cooperation has wider implications. Britain has not signed the Schengeo treaty, and objects to the idea of a European judicial system beyond the court already

The French account of the joint letter also mentioned the need for European institutions to be more responsive to people in member countries, and the controversial question of institutional restructuring.

The joint Franco-German letter is being released a week before the European summit in Madrid, which is expected to fi-nalise preparations for the IGC. But its release at the Franco-German summit suggests a diplomatic effort by both countries to show that they are still functioning together as the "en-gine of Europe" despite doubts about the extent of Presideot Chirac's commitment to political union, and despite the social unrest in France that threatens its ability to meet the Maastricht

# Socialist MEPs back Turkey trade link

TONY BARBER Europe Editor

Turkey looks certain to achieve its prized objective of a customs union with the European Union after Socialist and centre-right members of the European Parliament approved the measure last night. The parliament's two largest groups were responding to receot improvements in Turkey's human rights record, cleaning the way for ratification of the accord by the full parliament next week.

The European Commission and EU national governments have pressed hard for the agreement, arguing that it is vital to promote stability and prosperity in Turkey, one of the Islamic world's leading practitioners of secular politics. But many secular politics. But many MEPs, particularly the Socialists, were highly critical of Turkey's treatment of its ethnic Kurdish minority and of laws that curbed freedom of speech is relation to Kurdish issues. in relation to Kurdish issues.

Turkey's Prime Minister, Tansu Ciller, has spent months lobbying for the customs union, warning EU leaders that if the European Parliament rejected the accord it would trigger a radical pro-Islamic, anti-European

pected oow to ratify the agree-ment, Mrs Ciller and her conservative True Path Party may receive an important boost in Turkey's 24 December parlia-

mentary elections.

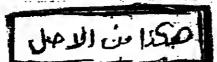
Mis Ciller's government took several steps this year to convince MEPs that it was serious about political reform. In July it steered a set of amendments to the 1982 military-era constitution through the Turkish par-liament, increasing the scope for popular participation in politics.

In October the Turkish court of appeals ordered the release of two Kurdish MPs imprisoned for advocating political and cultural rights for Kurds, How-ever, prisoo sentences on four other Kurdish MPs were unheld.

alised Article 8 of the anti-terrorism law, which had been used to jail more than 100 writers and intellectuals who spoke their minds on Kurdish matters. Last Tuesday Mrs Ciller even told a German television interviewer that she would soon consider liftern Turkey, where the armed forces have fought Kurdish guerrillas for the last 1.1 years.

The customs union is deical pro-Islamic, anti-European mood in Rukey. By the same to-ken, with the parliament ex-short of full membership.





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# international

# Chirac gives PM 'full support' on strikes

MARY DEJEVSKY

As airline staff and teachers prepared to join the strikes that have paralysed France for almost two weeks. President Chirac yesterday put the full weight of his office hehind Alain Juppé, expressing "his full support for the position set out by the Prime Minister".

With a true presidential touch, he also told the regular cabinet meeting that special provision should he made during the strikes for homeless people, deprived of the sheller of warm underground stations.

The majority of trade unions, including two of the biggest, the Force Ouvrière (FO) and the CGT vowed to continue the strikes. Basking in the success of the nationwide protests on Tuesday, and the still-growing strike movement, they called today for further demonstra-

tions to keep up the pressure on the government. The five rail unions have also voted to maintain their 12-day-old strike.

With the hattlelines thus drawn, and no sign of either side retreating, the balance of forces -which until Tuesday appeared to favour the protesters -seemed to be shifting to the government. Even the union leader who has made much of the run-ning, Marc Blondel of the FO,

seemed to be looking for a way out when he called yesterday not only for the withdrawal of the "Juppé plan" but for "the opening without delay of negotiations at prime-ministerial level". On a television discussion

by discouraging marchers. No less crucial is the fact that there is still a key dissenter in programme on Tuesday night, Mr Blondel and Louis Viannet the ranks of the unions. Nicole Notal, head of the biggest union, the CFDT, which has links with the Socialist Party, is of the CGT produced tired clichés which contrasted poorly with an energetic perforadamant that Mr Juppé's plans for welfare reform do have mance from the industry minister, Franck Borotra. Their call yesterday for a second day

has started to reduce rush-hour

jams, and the FO, which yes-

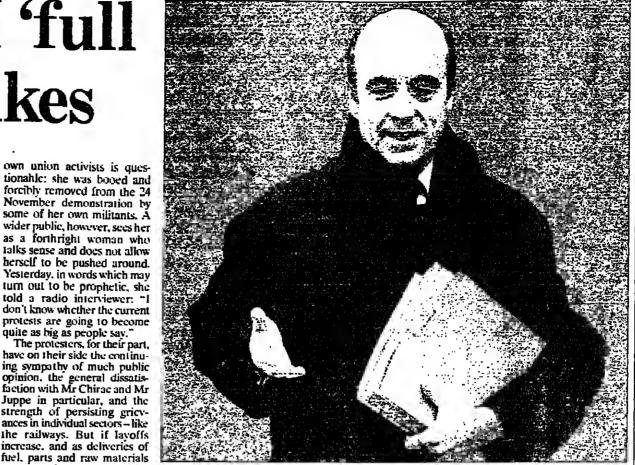
terday launched a subscription

campaign to help strikers, may

of demonstrations within a own union activists is quesweek not only looks unimagitionable: she was boosed and forcibly removed from the 24 native, but holds the serious risk that fewer people will turn out. November demonstration by Several other factors are some of her own militants. A moving in the government's favour. Mr Chirac's firm support of Mr Juppé makes a climb wider public, however, sees her as a forthright woman who talks sense and does not allow down by the Prime Minister less likely. The alternative transport herself to be pushed around. Yesterday, in words which may organised for Paris commuters turn out to be prophetic, she

be running short of money. The cold weather also helps have on their side the continuing sympathy of much public opinion, the general dissatis-faction with Mr Chirac and Mr Juppe in particular, and the strength of persisting gricyances in individual sectors - like the railways. But if layoffs increase, and as deliveries of fuel, parts and raw materials some good points. But Ms start to seize up, sympathics Notat's strength among her could change very quickly.

quite as big as people say."



Standing firm: Prime Minister Alain Juppé greets the press after a Cabinet meeting at the Elysee Palace yesterday, as the strikes continue Photograph: Michel Lipchitz/AP | in Egypt.

# Egypt denies hit squads

The Egyptian embassy in Lon-don has denied a report in yesterday's Independent that the Egyptian government has sent up to 100 men from its security service to hunt down its opponents in Britain, writes Michael Sheridan.

"The Egyptian embassy denies categorically the news report," an official statement said. This has never been the case nor is it Egyptian pulicy." The embassy described the report as "groundless and pure imagina-tion." adding that "Egypt is well known to be a country which respects international law and does not interfere in any way in the internal affairs of any country." A Foreign Office spokesman said the report was without foundation.

The Independent quoted a reliable military source in Cairo as saving that the agents began arriving in London last month and their mission was to hunt against whom the government of President Hosni Mubarak is engaged in a ruthless campaign

# Trade trip to Nigeria backed by Whitehall

STEVE CRAWSHAW

The British government is sponsoring husinessmen to go to Nigeria in order to drum up trade just as Nigerian opposition. groups are issuing a concerted call for sanctions against the

Nigerian military regime. When General Sani Abacha's government last month hanged Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others, on what were generally regarded as trumpedup charges, Nigeria was con-demned worldwide. It was promptly suspended from the Commonwealth and John Ma-jor, who was attending the Commonwealth summit in Auckland, talked of "judicial murder. Nigeria, it was sug-gested, would now be a pariah.

Now, however, the Department of Trade and Industry is preparing to subsidise a spon-

Philip Oppenheim, a minister at the department, noted recently: "My department has scaled down the level of promotional activity in recent years." None the less, next year's trip, planned for February under the auspices of the London Chamber of Commerce, promises "appropriate high-level PR and press cover-- perhaps a dubious attraction in the circumstances.

**LEPROSY** 

**CAN BE** 

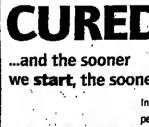
When first asked about gov-ernment policy, a DTI spokesreceive "no financial support", in terms of the encouragement to do deals. In reality, money is still freely available. Originally, applications for government funds had to be in by 20 Octo-ber - before Saro-Wiwa's execution and the international uproar that followed. The deadline has now been indefinitely

Organisers admitted yesterday: "We fully expected them [the DTI] to cancel." But Olaokun Soyinka, co-ordinator of a Nigerian pro-democracy umbrella group in London, said he was not surprised to hear that the trip was going ahead: "It's all bluster. Underneath, it's husiness as usual."

Tony Lloyd, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman who is hostat which Nigerian opposition groups will present their demands for an oil embargo, said he was "surprised" that the DTI has decided to go ahead with the trip. He warned of sending "the wrong message and argued: "The immediate response ought to be to cancel or at least defer these trips. If there's a milder climate in six or eight months' time, you can always put it hack on the agenda.

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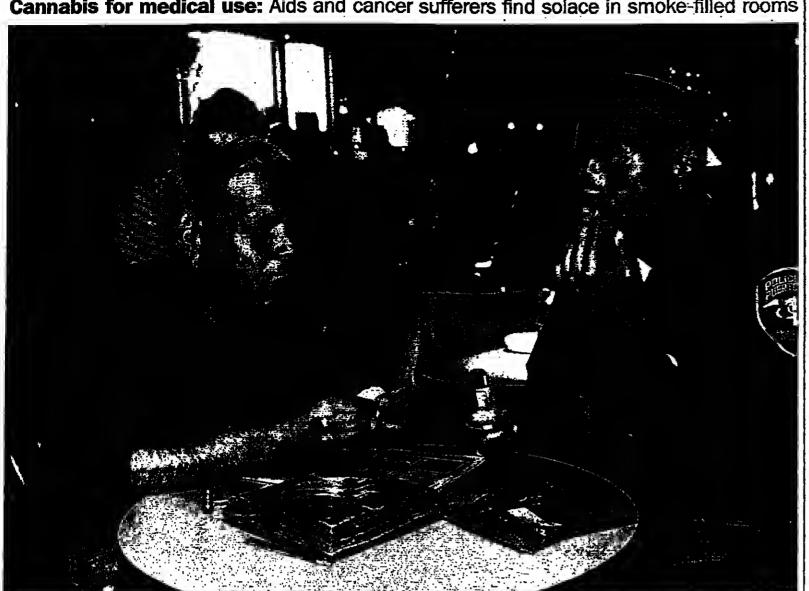
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PHILIPS

Cannabis for medical use: Aids and cancer sufferers find solace in smoke-filled rooms



Lighting the way: Joseph Soto and his friend, Hiram, both HIV positive, enjoy a smoke at the Cannabis Buyers' CLub Photograph: Catherine Leroy

# Gingrich faces new threat of legal scrutiny

RUPERT CORNWELL Washington

His popularity tumbling and his udgement increasingly ques-tioned even within his own Republican party, Newt Gingrich s facing a new threat: the likely appointment of an independent counsel to investigate alleged ethical irregularities by

the House Speaker.
After months of stonewalling, Republicans on the House Ethics Committee have reluctantly agreed to the principle of an outside investigator to look into what has been called "Newt Inc." a skein of political and personal ventures by Mr Gingrich, some involving the political action committee Gopac, which the Speaker headed un-

til early this year. Until now the committee of five Republicans and five Democrats has been deadlocked. But the dam burst last week with charges by the Federal Election Commission (FEC) that Gopac spent huge sums beloing Mr Gingrich win a hairbreadth reelection victory in 1990. It also produced documents showing 'ilar fate for Mr Gingrich. But

that big Gopac contributors a counsel with broad powers will asked for help with their problems with government, creating what the FEC calls "the appearance of corruption".

meeting in Angust 1990 esti-mated "Newt support" at Mr Gingrich has dismissed the allegations as "phoney, to-tally phoney". Even so, this new controversy was clearly a \$250,000 a year. Separate allegations centre on possible factor in his decision last week to keep out of the spotlight in the negotiations over the 1996 budget, where his outbursts have handed the White House a massive public relations boost in its battle with Congress.

The argument now is over how wide the counsel's powers should be, with Republicans insisting they be kept as narrow as possible, but Democrats adamant that no Gingrich con-troversy should be off-limits. Thus does history repeat it-self on Capitol Hill. Seven years

ago, a fiery young minority whip named Newt Gingrich led the campaign for a powerful demeanours by the then De-Mr Wright was forced to resign. No one is yet predicting a sim-

Gopac funding for a college course taught by Mr Gingrich, in breach of tax laws. The biggest headlines however were generated in autumn 1994 by the Speaker's infacancelled -contract for a \$4.5m Murdoch's HarperCollins publishing company, just when Mr Murdoch had pressing busi-

with According to a transcript released by the FEC one

speaker at an internal Gopac

al broadcasting authorities. Meanwhile, President Bill Clinton yesterday vetoed the Republican bill for balancing the budget by 2002. But the White House is promising its own proposal by the end of the week, raising hopes of a com-promise to avert another federal shutdown when the current stopgap government funding expires on 15 December.

ness with Congress and feder-

'Speakeasy' campaigners push case for marijuana

**DAVID USBORNE** 

It is two minutes to one in the afternoon and "last orders" is called at the Island Bar. A more than 7,000 today. As handful of punters stir lazily from the armchairs and sofas that line the walls to make a last for social contact and mutual purchase. Only Mexican varieties are sold on this floor, for the more expensive Californian labels there is another bar upstairs. We are not talking booze here, but the green leaf - mar-

Club on Market Street in San Francisco. An anonymous-looking four-storey office huilding from the outside, within it is a modern version of a Prohibition era speakeasy. The air is heavy with marijuana smoke and the rhythms of Annie Lennox. This lunchtime the trade is hectic at both bars, which, as well as cannabis by the 2.5-gram bag, also sell pot-laced pastries, water pipes and other drug-taking paraphernalia.

"What we are doing is totally, absolutely illegal," confesses the club's director and founder, Dennis Peron, an imp-



Dennis Peron: Believes his stand will be vindicated

ish grin breaking out from under his white hair. But this is by no means a frivolous venture, pursued just for the fun of breaking the law. On the contrary, Mr Peron wants to change the law. This is a club reserved for customers with serious, mostly chronic diseases, in particular Aids and cancer, and it is at the forefront of a growing nationwide campaign to legalise cannabis for medical use. No one gets the nembership without a written diagnostic form their doctor. nosis from their doctor.

Nor is this an ordinary day at the club, one of about 26 now operating across America. When one o'clock comes, Mr Peron leads 100 of his members on a march down Market Street to United Nations Plaza to publicise the latest phase of his campaign: a drive to collect enough signatures to put a popular petition to California's voters next November, asking them to let doctors prescribe marijuana to the gravely ili. The police bave shown up in strength, but, this being San Francisco and an oasis of liberal politics in America, they actually help the marchers. Passing cars honk with approval.

It was after the death of his former lover from Aids that Mr Peron founded the club in 1991, the first of its kind. He has seen its membership explode to support. "I'm so proud and so happy these people aren't alone any more," says Mr Perou. Curtis, for example, who is 34

and has had HIV for nine years. comes to the club about twice a week, in part to linger for a friends. More importantly, he is certain marijuana has helped his body cope with the virus. He says that it helps him sleep, restores his appetite and suppresses the nausea that is brought on by the anti-Aids drug, AZT. A fresh joint in his hand, he explains: "If I didn't take pot, it would just be an endless cycle of getting up in the morning and not being able to eat anything and then not tak-ing the AZT because it makes me feel so bad." Several others at the bar offer similar testimonies. "If it wasn't for the club, I would be dead by now," says Peter Dekon, who has a brain

tumour. "I'm certain of it."
On the legal front Mr Peron's experience has been more frustrating. The federal government continues to resist revising its designation of cannabis as a category one drug, too dangerous even for doctors to prescribe on bowever a limited basis. Cocaine and morphine, by contrast, are category two drugs. The California Assembly finalby this year did pass a law of-fering a limited legalisation of the drug for medical use, only to see it instantly vetoed by Gov-

ernor Pete Wilson. Even so, the notion of allowing marijuana use for therapeutic purposes only is increasingly being debated na-tionwide. Federal officials insist dence proving the benefits of marijuana as a treatment. But last summer the Journal of the American Medical Association published an article advocating limited legalisation co-authored by Lester Grinspoon, a professor of psychiatry at Harvard.
"The ostensible indifference of physicians should no longer be used as a justification for keeping this medicine in the shad-

ows," the article argued. Back at the club, Dennis Peron remains convinced that he will one day be vindicated. With the California petition, he may be making an important start. In a non-binding vote four years ago, Californians voted 80 per cent in favour of limited legalisation. If he can get the necessary 600,000 signa-tures to qualify for a place on the ballot, his latest initiative could become law. This is just now beginning to achieve a critical mass," he says, passing a joint around.



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# international

Russian elections: Among the dispossessed and disillusioned, support grows for general who sees the positive side of Stalin

# Gruff hero of Afghanistan wins hearts of the nostalgic

He was a perfect warm-up man for a general; fast-talking, crisp haircut and smart as a button in a black suit and tie. Just the ticket to work up a lather among a crowd of provincial Russians, gathered in a public ball to seek a messiah to solve their eco-nomic woes, and restore their lost sense of national pride.

The audience had been promised Alexander Lebed, the retired army officer who is running for a nationalist party widely tipped to do well in this month's parliamentary elec-tions. General Lebed - usually a strict disciplinarian - was late. So they turned their at-

tention to the pitch man instead. Did the party, the Congress man asked from the floor of the packed hall. The aide allowed a lemon-segment smile to spread across his face. "I can tell you one thing," he said, "there isn't one black in our party." Contentment rippled from the gallery to the stage.

Try as he may, General Lebed will have an uphill task suading liberal analysts that his party - or at least its fol-

True, most of the time he ocupies the centre ground, rumling on about the importance of law and order, decrying the folly of the costly war in Chechnya and arguing the need to help the 25 million Russians stranded outside the country by the break-up of the Soviet Union. He says he believes in a free press and - rare, this, for a two-star Russian general - a

You need to be strong. I have a hand that can be made into an iron fist'

small, all-professional army.
But every now and then there is a glimpse of something else. His warm-up man had supplied one such insight to the audience of pensioners, war Russians in Kaluga, an indostrial city two hours' drive south of

Less than half an hour later, the 46-year-old general provided another. He did not tell the crowd that he wholeheart-

completed it. There were no

This may be nothing more than campaign rhetoric, a celebrity soldier playing to a crowd of small-town Russians, but it works. For if there is a golden boy among the politicians from the 43 parties run-ning for the election on 17 ber, it is Alexander Lebed. Polls suggest he is the most popular leader in Russia.

General Lebed (the name means "Swan") is a former commander of the Fourteenth Army in Moldova, from which he resigned after using his tanks to protect Russian-led separatists. The only thing more impressive than his subsequent popularity is his baritone voice. which seems to emanate from the soles of his impeccably polished black shoes. "You need to be strong. I have a hand that can be made into an iron fist," he

Polls show that his party, which is led by Yuri Skokov, the former head of Boris Yeltsin's Security Council, and Sergei Glazyev, a respected econoblocs that are likely to emerge strongly in the elections to the

edly approved of Stalin, but he did say he respected the way Stalin set himself a goal and stalin set himself a goal and the Chechen war. To military eyes, General Lebed embodies the ideal of a strong leader: a hero of the Afghan war, ex-paratrooper and former boxer. He may even draw support away from their other heart-throb, the ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky

The key question is whether the party will do well enough to allow General Lebed to mount a presidential challenge. He told the crowd in Kaluga that he not decided whether to do so

For over an hour the audience listened to him, a ram-rod figure in a black suit and Vnecked jumper who punctuat-Afterwards, as they stood wrapped in furs against -5C temperatures, most seemed won

"He is a very intelligent, honst, brave, and clever man," said professor. "I think he's a future

Galina Ivanovna, a pension er, was still more entranced: "He has a strong fist," she enthused. "If he does everything he says he's going to, he wil chance she could be right.



Leading article, page 20 Lebed: Tough job to convince the world that he is just a mildly left-wing patriot

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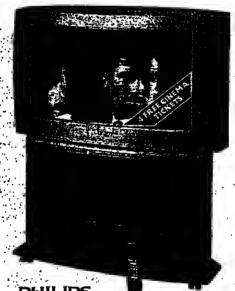
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TERESA POOLE

A battle between migrant work-ers from inland China and local villagers has left at least four southern region of Shenzhen. Security forces opened fire on crowds in the most serious known clash this year involving China's army of "floating" workers, according to Hong

During several hours of confrontation, the village Communist Party headquarters was ransacked, and at least two victims were reported beaten to death. Dozens were injured.

overburdened tocal services. Shenzhen, bordering Hong China's first experiment with capitalism 15 years ago. Many

for export.

worker riot ougrant worker on a hospital

Kong newspaper reports.

Tension between migrant workers and locals runs high in most of China's economically advanced cities and coastal provinces. Poor farmers who flood in from inland say they are treated with contempt by locals. though they do most of the hard migrants for soaring crime and

lions of pounds' worth of goods

lished photographs of a dead happened close to Hong Kong.

bed, the clash took place in Longtian village, in the northeast of Shenzhen, outside the special zone. The labourers, from Hunan and Hebei Chinese construction company building a motorway.

On Sunday morning, a villager on a motorbike disregarded barriers and rode down a section of newly-tarred road. The infuriated workers attacked the rider, who used his mobile telephone to call the police. Armed Public Security Bureau men and private village security guards arrived. A gun was held to the head of one of the workers by a policeman. The of-ficer was attacked by labourers with shovels and metal bars, and a full-scale battle ensued.

The migrants called in support from a nearby construction site, and a reported 500-strong mob descended on the village labour and dirty jobs that no one else wants. The locals blame the were called in and opened fire with automatic weapons. One migrant worker and one onlooker were shot dead. A village Kong, bas one of the world's security guard and another mi-fastest growing economies. Its Special Economic Zone was death, and about 10 labourers were in critical condition. Dozens were arrested. Longtfactories depend on cheap mi-grant labour to churn out bil-under tight security.

Such clashes are believed to be common in China, but usu-According to Hong Kong ally go unreported. Details of newspapers, two of which pubthis one filtered out because it

# Peking set to foist its lama on Tibet

TIM McGIRK New Delhi

throne a six-year-old boy tomorrow as the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama, one of Tibet's highest spiritual leaders, in a move that is likely to intensi-

fy Tibetan anger against

Peking's rule, according to Ti-

betan exile sources in India. By placing their young candidate, Gyaltsen Norbu, on the Panchen Lama's throne in the town of Shigatse, the Chinese will break an ancient mystical tradition and violate the Buddhist beliefs held by millions of Tibetans. The Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual ruler, has

already found a young nomad boy believed to be the Panchen Lama reborn. tend to install a child whose father is believed to be a Communist Party security offi-

cer, charged, ironically, with rooting out Tibetan Communists in Nagchu district suspected of

retaining their Buddhist beliefs and nationalistic tendencies.

"Contrary to Chinese media Chinese authorities plan to cn-reports of crowds ecstatically greeting the pretender Panchen Lama ... the authorities made every effort to isolate the boy for fear of any outhurst of popular anger," according to one official in Dharamsala, home of the Dalai Lama's governmentin-exile in India.

Senior lamas and Tibetan officials have been ordered by the Chinese to attend the ceremony in Shigatse or face punishment. In Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, over 300 monks walked out of a tea ceremony several days ago when they realised it was being offered in honour of the rival Panchen Lama of the Chinese.

The last Panchen Lama died The Chinese have snubbed in 1989, after spending 12 years the Dalai Lama's choice and in- under house arrest by the Chinese. Fears are growing for the safety of the nomad boy chosen by the Dalai Lama. He and his parents were arrested and taken to Peking, where they are being kept under house arrest.

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Colin Blakemore, in the first of two opposing articles today and tomorrow by leading scientists, argues that BSE is a cause for great public concern

# Why we should all give up beef

We've all seen them - those thus a pandemic of incurable and lethal disease will hit Britain V pitiful images of wobbly cows. We've all imagined it - a plague of Biblical proportions striking people down with a disease that literally rots the brain. The most horrific scenario is as follows: BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) was caused by feeding cows with material from sheep infected with a similar condition, scrapie; the transmissible agent has spon-taneously transformed, rendering it infectious to other species including humans; it pervades the human food chain, not only through fragments of offal in meat pies, sausages and burgers, but in the nerves that are found in the hest cuts of meat, as well as gravy granules and, conceivably, milk: the human disease has a very long incubation period, perhaps 20 years, and

in a decade or so, striking down a generation of beef-eating 30year-olds and leaving the country of beefeaters in the hands of

Before this is quoted as my opinion, I hasten to add that we have solid evidence for none of this story, and I hope with all my heart that it's nonsense. But what we are most definitely not entitled to say is what the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, did say last Sunday, that there is "no conceivable risk" of BSE being transmitted from cows to people. This statement revealed as much about the lamentable ignorance of scientific methods and elementary statistics among British politicians as it did about the des-

to avoid yet another scandal. Not only is a risk "conceivable" but it is increasingly being acknowledged by experts, including the Government's own advisers and the scientists whose research will eventually allow that risk to be properly assessed.

The very nature of spongiform encephalopathics militates against a rapid resolution of the current dilemma. We don't even know for sure the nature of the transmissible agent in BSE, although it is probably a so-called prion, a class of chemical agents named as recently as 1982. These nasty little molecules are non-living fragments of protein that are resistant to dis-infectants or modest heat and can probably never be combatted by conventional vaccination. Healthy nerve cells in the

GAS FIRES AT B&Q



but they differ from the nasty prions in having a different mol-ecular shape. The bad prion does its deadly business by wrapping itself around the healthy form, replicating itself, causing the destruction of nerve cells and the release of more evil molecules. As far as we know, prion protein stays trapped in the nervous system of an

that it could, in principle, be present in any part of the body that has a nerve supply, including muscle (ie, meat).

Spongiform brain diseases occur naturally in many species. though they tend to be very rare. The human encephalopathy, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), was described early this century. There are about one in

over Europe - that means about one a week in this country. Ninety per cent of them are thought to be caused by a spontaneous fault occurring in nerve cells, which makes them produce the wrong sort of prion.

There is no evidence, in any species, that these diseases are contagious or can be transmitted sexually or even through blood. But they are transmissible. We know that from the chilling story of the spongiform disease knru, which occurs surprisingly fre-quently among New Guinea people, who have the curious habit of cating the brains of their dead relatives. It seems that prions from an infected human brain can enter the body through the gut, get into the blood and thence infect the brain of the consumer. The average incubation period for kuru (between eating Uncle Arthur and feeling very odd) is only four years. Although it is often said that the incubation period for CID is 20 years or more, there is no strong

evidence for this. The first cases of BSE in British cattle were reported in November 1986. Where did BSE come from? The finger of guilt pointed clearly at the relatively recent practice of giving cattle (especially dairy cows) feed containing bone meal and careass trimmings from sheep (and indeed from cattle, too). A committee chaired by Sir Richard Southwood, set up by the Government in May 1988, concluded that the sheep products in feed probably caused the transmission of a scrapie-like condition to cattle. An alternative opinion is that the beef products in cow feed were responsible. Whatever the origin, feeding practices appeared to be to blame and the Government, acting with admirable speed, introduced a ban

on the feeding of ungulates in July 1988. Everyone agrees that no human being appears to have developed a spongiform dis-ease after eating lamb or even sheep brain, although scrapic (which is, incidentally, largely genetic in origin) has been known for at least the past 250 years. On the other hand, if material from the brain of an infected sheep is injected directly into the brain of a monkey, the latter develops a spongiform disease after about three and a half years. The conclusion must be that the scrapic agent does not normally reach the brain from the gut.

The Southwood Committee concluded that it was also unlikely (not "inconceivable", please note) that the BSE agent would transmit to humans through food, but, to err on the side of caution, they recom-mended the exclusion from the human food chain of infected carcasses and milk from infected animals, and the withdrawal of bovine products from materials used for medicinal purposes. Again, the Govern-ment acted promptly, in August 1988 requiring the slaughter of obviously infected animals and

the destruction of their milk. In November 1989 the "specified offal" ban came into force, forbidding the use of various bits of cattle, including brain and spinal cord, in products for human consumption. Despite persistent reassurances, it seems that this ban was not completely

categorical denials and escalating restrictions have made me more

The scares.

effective, either because of sloppy methods or deliberate negligence, and it has been pro-

concerned

gressively strengthened.
The Southwood Committee predicted that the total of BSE cases would be 17,000-20,000, that it was unlikely to transmit to other species, and that cattle would be a "dead-end bost", the disease disappearing within a few years. In fact, the rate of new cases ruse to 1,000 a week, and 300 a week are still being reported, many of them animais born after the ban (BABs)

The most likely interpretation is that the ban isn't being fully observed. However, there remains the frightening possibility of "vertical transmission", from infected animals to their off-spring perhaps across the pla-centa or through milk. This has been invoked as the possible cause of new cases of BSE among BABs, but if the incubation period of BSE in cattle is about four years, the cases we are seeing now were infected in the early Nineties, when the controls were certainly less strict. I gave up eating all beef when I first heard of BSE, I have to

admit that this was as much because of the evidence of a link scares, categorical Government denials, and escalating restrictions has made me more concerned rather than less. Many scientists and clinicians far more expert in this area than I now appear to share my worries, most notably Sir Bernard Tomlinson, eminent neuropathol-ogist and former government adviser, who recently said that he had changed his mind and that burgers, pies and heef liver might

(note "might") cause CID. Sir Bernard's remarks and the ensuing media concern were triggered by a somewhat mysterious series of individual cases. including some in surprisingly young adults and especially four dairy farmers who had worked with infected herds. Statistician Dr Sheila Gore estimated that there should have been only about two cases among all farmers since 1990 and that the probability of the four deaths among dairy herdsmen arising by chance variation on the nor-

mal pattern was 1 in 10,000. The numbers are still very small and there are some concerns about the statistical methodology. However, in scientific research a probability of just 1 in 20 is usually taken as "statistically significant". The observations may not be conclusive but they most definitely do not support Mr Dorrell's statement that there is "no conceivable risk".

The next two years will be critical. If research continues, we may also have a much clearer picture of how these encephalopathies transmit and, if humans are indeed protected in some way from BSE, how that protection operates. In this context, I note with regret that the Neuropathogenesis Unit in Edinburgh, one of the main centres studying the disease, has recently had its funding cut.

Given the quagnure of sun evidence and contradictory opinion, what should the meat-loving public do? Stay calm; don't eat beef pies, burgers or sausages: consider giving up all beef until the picture is clearer, listen to the scientists. And the Government should learn that if it continues to betray its ignorance of the concept of risk by transforming cautious scientific and medical advice into categorical reassurances, which it subsequently has to withdraw, the public will rightly become increasingly distrustful of anything that it says.

. The writer is Waynflete Professor of Physiology at the University of Oxford. Tomorrow: Robert Will, to cancer and heart disease as head of the CID surveillance unit any real fear of catching BSE.

Nevertheless, the series of media Haspital.

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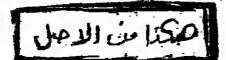
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# Atishoo! Atishoo! They all cash in

A flu epidemic is good news for a company with a 'wonder drug' in the lab. Liz Hunt looks behind the hype

Coughing up for a remedy

Nobles at the courts of Queen Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots referred to it as the "newe acquaintance". In 1568, a Thomas Willis said that it appeared to be sent "by some blast of stars", and in 1775 it was reported that 20,000 people had been "seized in one night".

More than 200 years later infinenza is still grabbing headlines. One of the most common and debilifating of global infections, the virus can have a devastating impact on industry, schools and hos-pitals. Millions of pounds have been invested in trying to beat it, but so far it bas defied the best efforts of scientists. So when a new flu cure is mooted, it is guaranteed column inches.

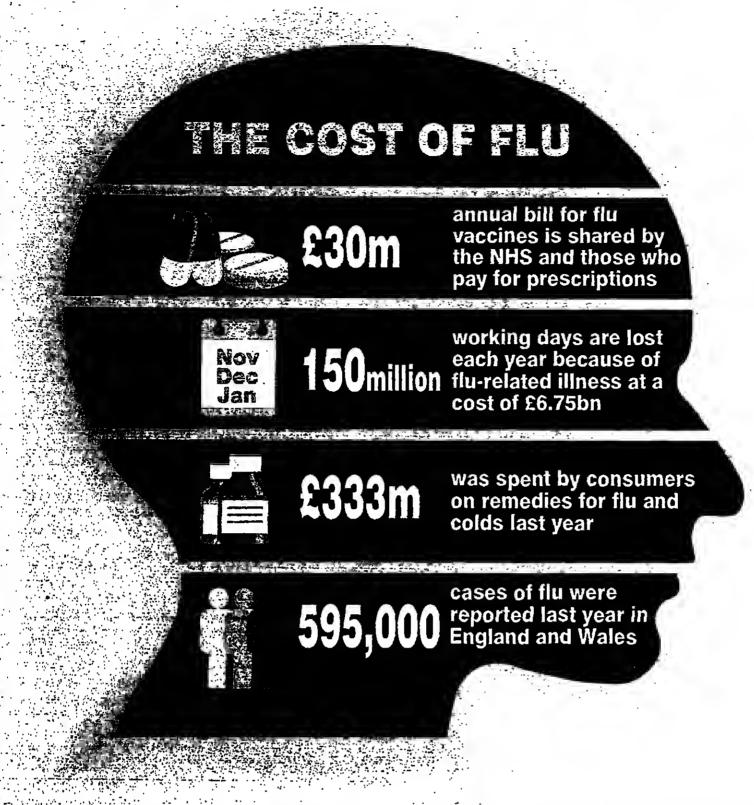
With an eagle eye on its

Their confidence in a drug tested on a handful of volunteers has alarmed observers

share price, Glazo Wellcome has seized the opportunity presented by reports of a pre-Christmas epidemic to hype a new potential flu drug, one which is scarcely out of the

The company says that a poor flu season last year bampered the development of the compound, known as GG167. There were too few. cases to try it on. But this year, the company says confidently, the surge in cases of flu and flu-like illness now being reported has presented the ideal conditions for largescale clinical trials. It predicts approval from regulatory authorities for a nasal spray or inhalation as early as 1997, with sales in its first year in

excess of £200m. a handful of human volunalarmed drug industry their top sellers - drugs like observers and leading scientists. They see a trend developing in which British pharmaceutical companies once a which loses its patent exclumodel of caution, are making sivity in less than two years' claims for compounds still in time. Drug companies the preliminary stages of believe that the "hyping" development



executives of British compa-Such confidence in a drug nies are desperate to retain new company, last week saw which has been tested in just their dominant position in the global market place, and teers so far - very few of time is running out. They whom actually had flu - has need new products to replace Zantac, an anti-ulcer treatment and the best selling month only. drug in the world, but one strategy persuades share- virus in its tracks. It blocks an

The reasons are clear. The holders to keep the faith, enzyme, neuraminidase, the compound belongs to a British Biotech, a relatively its share price sboot up by more than 50 per cent after releasing results of a new anti-cancer drug. The drug, marimastat, had been tested in just 94 patients for one

GG167 is certainly a novel approach to combating the influenza virus. The computer-designed drug does not kill it, but appears to stop the

which is essential for the much older group of chemi- boat-shaped and fitted a release of the virus from infected human cells in the nasal passage and the airways of the lungs. The theory is that the immune system will then "mop up" these infected cells and so prevent their spread through the rest of the

Peter Collins, a scientist at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, is credited with discovering GG167 in the mid-Eighties: However,

cals developed in the Sixties by Peter Palese, a chemist in Vienna. He recognised their potential as anti-viral drugs, but Collins, an X-ray crystallographer, was the one to "fine-tune" the original molecule until it was specific for strains A and B of the flu virus - the most common strains in circulation - sticking to them at a particular point and inhibiting neuraminidase.

Palese's molecule was Professor John Oxford, a leading virologist at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel. "What Collins did was add a little oar shape to the molecule so that it fitted even better and had greater efficacy against the virus," he explains.

In the test tube and in laboratory animals, GG167 has proved successful, but in laboratory rats and mice.

humans there is little in the way of conclusive evidence. Other similar neuraminidase inhihitors are being developed in labs around the world, and there is fierce competition to be first on the market. However, many virologists believe that a simpler back-to-basics approach. now being applied to the Aids virus, is the only way forward against flu: better drugs to treat the symptoms are a more cost-effective option than millions of pounds being invested in

potential cures.

But other doctors point to an existing drug as the most exciting prospect for treating influenza A, the most dangerous strain of the virus and the one associated with most fatalities. The drug is amantadine, made by Ciba

Many doctors believe better drugs to treat the symptoms would be more cost-effective

Geigy and sold as Symmetrel. It is herter known as a treatment for Parkinson's disease but its value in flu is widely recognised by those in the know. It is, however, underused because few GPs have heard of it and the Department of Health is not keen to promote it. Flu vaccination for those at particular risk stretches the NHS budget enough as it is. The department has, according to some doctors, overempha-sised its side-effects, described as an excess of "jittery" feelings.

A related drug, rimantadine, would reduce these minor side-effects even further, it is claimed. It is rarely used in the West but doctors in the former Soviet Unior groove in the viral structure have regularly prescribed it neatly enough, according to and have a wide base of patient experience. A few Western drug companies have expressed interest but refuse to comment on its potential as a flu treatment just yet. It is, however, a more realistic option than a hitech, state-of-the-art compound which, so far, has proved itself effective at relieving flu symptoms only in

Paracetamol and a hot drink with honey and lemon will relieve cold symptoms just as well as the most expensive over-thecounter branded remedies according to research by the Consumers' Association magazine Which?

Treating aches and pains with the maximum dose of a "combination" formula such as Day Nurse Liquid Cold and Flu Remedy costs £1.93 a day. Paracetamol and a hot drink will knock you back 35p and give the same effect.

Adults suffer on average four colds a year and children twice as many. To counter them we spend £300m a year on the 200plus remedies available.

Which? tried a range of remedies costing up to £4.75 and concinded that popular "combination" emedies (which contain painkiller, decongestant and cough soothers, will often do little good unless you bave the full range of symptoms - otherwise you are only swallowing unnecessary drugs.

The most expensive combination remedies are Day Nurse Liquid Cold and Flu Remedy at £1.93 per day and Flurex Cold/Flu Capsules with Cough Suppressant at £1.94. But Lemsip (95p per day), and Boots Hot Lemon Cold Rebef with Decongestant (94p) also cost far more

tban paracetamol, Cold sufferers should treat symptoms singly, taking paracetamol, aspirin or ibuprofen for aches and pains, treating bad congestion with a spray and, if really necessary, a dry cough with a suppressant. Bot the magazine warns victims "there is no convincing proof" that cough expectorants such as Robitussin for Chesty Coughs (£1.12 per day), and Vicks Original Congb Syrup (chesty) (£1.59) work: warm water is probably jost as effective.

Only sore throat lozenges containing doses of anaesthetic, such as Merocaine, may soothe soreness: others, containing anti-bacterial ingredients. are not likely to belp any more than any other sweet

"The simple fact is yon're probably better off with plenty of rest and lots of fluids," said Diane McCrea, Which," head of food and health. "Sadly, the world still awaits a cure for the common cold."

**Glenda Cooper** 

# Diary

"Shock jocks" aren't to be found only on Talk Radio UK, it seems. Or so the writer Charles Jennings discovered when he agreed to chat on BBC Radio Leeds last Sunday, to plug his book *Up North*, in whose pages he takes several swipes at the loveliness of virtually anywhere in England north of Potters Bar. The show was hosted by one Peter Levy – presumably not the Jesuit poet who's married to Cyril Connolly's widow – who invited along Austin Mitchell, the ayoping northern MP for Great Grimbsy and quondum broadcaster.

Responding with predictable fury to Jennings's droll views of their respective home towns (Grimsby, he had opined, "is full of carpet warehouses"), Levy

home towns (Grimsby, he had opined, "is full of carpet warehouses"), Levy and Jennings began to abuse the hapless writer in decreasingly humorous ways. "Let's go down there." Mitchell said eventually, "and kick him in the balls." "It's time someone told him," agreed Levy, "to bugger off." "What's it like," they chorused, "being a dork?" And what was it like? "It was like being beaten up in the playground by a couple of northern gits," replied the unabashed (if decidedly bashed) Jennings. His next book is a swingeing attack on "aristocrats, Sioanes and people who shop at Harvey Nichols". I look forward to the interview on Radio Posh.

Picture the scene. You are Brian Sewell, pompadoured, vowelstrangling, celebrated (and, occasionally, vilified) art critic of the London Evening Standard. You return, last week, from a spell in hospital to file your exciting thoughts on, say, the Turner Prize, only to find that your place in the Thursday arts section has been taken by a critic you've never beard of, writing a glowing report on the work of a sculptor, William Turnbull, whom you find spectacularly free of merit. You wonder what she/it is doing sneaking into your slot during your not-very-protracted



Art's not so swell for Sewell

wondering, Brian, until I point out the spooly fact that at least two of the Standard's Christmann two of the absence. And I'm afraid you will go on d's Christmas parties are scheduled to be held at the Scrpentine Gallery, where the work of Mr Turnbull is currently on display. Only a hardened cynic would suggest there's any connection between these two facts, but there it is.

Richard Jobson, ex-Skids singer turned besuited media mogul, found himself in a bit of a cross-cultural barney this week. Delighted by the acidulous showbiz writings of Joe-Queenan, a bitchy New Yorker with a wrong-way baseball cap and a bilious attitude to the rich and famous (his long-standing fend with Barbra Streisand has resulted in two court actions so far), Jobson's film production company, Rebus, decided to dramatise one of the articles in Mr O's book, If You're Talking to Me, Your Career Must Be In Trouble, in which the author fantasises about spending a day as Mickey Rourke, the pugnacious actor with the fascination for New York lowlife. It was such a success, they decided to make it a trilogy, with Queenan also spending a day impersonating Hugh Grant and

pub, where Queenan/Grant is filmed meeting real British people rather than the stammering charmers with which Hollywood believes this country is populated. The idea was that Queenan should be seen lecturing a crowd of jolly regulars about the need for gentlemanly behaviour. They miscalculated slightly, though, in choosing a puh in the Old Kent Road more known for villainy than Cockney nostalgia. As Queenan stood on the bar and launched into his humorous harangue ("All that separates the likes of you from the likes of me is one word: decency"), a hundred eyes like Stanley knives turned on the hapless Yank. Tragically, Jobson, Queenan and Co had stumbled upon an ad hoc convention of 50 Millwall supporters plotting their next act of ultraviolence. As Queenan was hustled from the bar, only the presence of television cameras came between him and instant evisceration.

Part of the Hugh Grant programme

involved a trip to a south London

Things have gone completely screwy in the on-off saga of the Reed poets. Earlier this year, all the poets publishing new books under the Sinclair-Stevenson imprint received a letter from the Reed Group bosses saying, plaintively, "We have no expertise in this area of publishing", and saying they weren't going to touch any more confounded verse. . They also offered to pay the poets their advances in full. As anyone who has ever dealt with poets could have predicted, a war of attrition broke out. It's lasted all year. Some poets have taken the Reed Group to court. Some have demanded to be published, whether the company likes it or not. They have all banded together in a grumbling freemasonry Anthony Thwaite, Jon Silkin, Alan Brownjohn, Fiona Pitt-Kethley, Michael Glover, William Scammell, Martyn Crucefix - and made the Reed Group's life bell. At least that's what I gather from the news that the group's legal adviser has just written a letter to the aggrieved Parnassians offering £500 to each of the authors "by way of resolution ... in settlement of the whole matter". In other words,

"Here's some cash, you mntinous dogs. Now will you shot the \*\*\*\* np?".

Anyone who couldn't score a seat at the Vogue Christmas party last night could settle for a good second-best at the Avenue, the fantastically swish new bar 'n' restaurant in St James's that launched itself on a tidal wave of Dom Perignon and A-list celebs. An ex-Warburg moneybags called

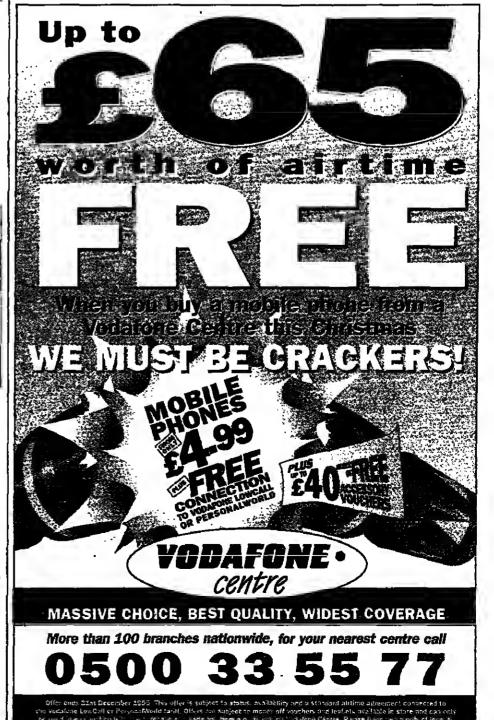


But it's better and better for him ...

Christopher Bodker, two of his friends and 60 shareholders are collectively responsible for this desperately glam establishment. which hopes, the accompanying PR stuff tells me, "to bring the style and energy of New York to Landon". Glancing at the pedigree of its contributing foodies, designers and so forth, it's a sure-fire success: 1 mean, the chef's from Mezzo, the photographic prints are by Norman Parkinson, the waitresses' uniforms are by Nicole Farhi, the paintings are by Estelle Thompson, the furniture's by John Coleman, the development consultant's David Mellor, the video wall is by ...

Hang on a tick. Can that be the David Mellor, MP, the toothy philanderer with the fashion sense of Quasimodo? Yup, that'll be him. Seems an obvious choice to me. If you need a word of advice about how best to bring Manhattan high style to boring, tacky old London, he's just the man to give you one.

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# Danger: vacancy in the Kremlin

Russia's parliamentary elections on 17 December will take place in a climate of acute political uncertainty. Intrigue, vio-lence and popular disillusion form the hackdrop to a vote that will pose more uestions than it will answer about Russia's future. The elections seem certain to produce a deeply fragmented State Duma (lower house of parliament), with no party commanding a majority. Communists, nationalists and other forces of reaction will probably perform better than liberal Westernisers, but party allegiances are weak in Russia and many elected members, thirsty for government largesse, may drift into the camp of Viktor Chernomyrdin, the centrist prime minister. after they take their scats. More significant than the elections is

the drama off-stage. President Boris Yeltsin, having suffered his second heart attack of the year in late October, is still convalescing in a sanatorium outside Moscow. It seems increasingly unlikely that he will run again for office in next June's presidential election. That contest will be critically important for Russia because the constitution, introduced after Mr Yeltsin shelled an earlier rebellious parliament out of existence in 1993, gives far more power to the presidency than to the legislature. Rival politicians, including Alexander Lebed, reputed to be Russia's most popular general, Gennady Zyuganov, the Communist leader, and Grigory Yavlinsky, the liberal reformer, are already jostling for the presidential succession. They view the parliamentary elections as a way of establishing their credentials for the contest next year.

However, their behaviour has aroused the hostility of Mr Yeltsin's personal assistants - including Alexander Korzhakov. his powerful chief bodyguard - who stand to be swept from the Kremlin as soon as

the president leaves office. Certain figures in the Yeltsin entourage have even hinted that they may seek to invalidate the parliamentary elections if the result goes against Mr Chernomyrdin and the progovernment camp. Moreover, if the prime minister's party, known as Our Home Is Russia, crashes to defeat on 17 December, thus undermining the prospects of a Yeltsin or Chernomyrdin victory in June, it is conceivable that some uf those closest to Mr Yeltsin will attempt to delay or cancel the presidential elections.

Such machinations would be less worry ing, were it not that violence seems to be turning into a permanent feature of post-Communist Russian politics. Only two days ago, three hand grenades destroyed the office of an extreme nationalist MP at the parliament building in Moscow. Four MPs have been murdered since the last elections in 1993. Many MPs routinely carry guns. The atmosphere of insecurity has been enhanced by Russia's military crackdown in Chechnya, which was launched almost exactly one year ago and has predictably generated a backlash of terrorism and sabotage. In the latest incident, a car bomb killed 11 people last Monday in Grozny, the Chechen capital.

To cap Russia's troubles, a majority of voters seem disinclined to give credit to their rulers for the fact that, at long last, the government's economic reforms are bearing fruit. Inflation is falling, the rouhle is stable and mass privatisation has given millions a stake in the future. However the memory of recent hardships is still vivid. Unless popular attitudes change hefore June, this could prove fatal to Mr Chernomyrdin. He remains on balance the West's preferred successor to Mr Yeltsin, but the West would be wise to remember that orderly transfers of power are the exception, not the rule, in Russian history.

# Nation shall speak cheaply unto nation

It is becoming traditional at this time of within the whole of the BBC, where Lyear to praise the quality of the BBC's renowned World Service and then to deplore the spending cuts imposed on that venerable organisation by a parsimonious Foreign Office This year sees a glum oew set of figures, according to which the planned Foreign Office grant of just over £169m will be pared by about £5.4m.

The Foreign Office in its own annual report says that World Service radio gains an audience of 130 millioo regular listeners and "enhances Britain's standing abroad and forms among listeners a better understanding of the UK". The National Audit Office, for its part, recently praised improvements in efficiency in a broadly favourable report on the World Service.

So far, this is a familiar story of beleaguered broadcasters, philistine government, bloated Foreign Office mandarins spending millions on "smoked salmon and champagne" while symbol of national glory declines, and so on.

This picture, however, is a simplification of real and important develop-ments within the BBC. Yes, there are reductions on the way in the BBC's global coverage. Several prestigious forcign offices are due to close next year, diminishing an already rather threadbare and cheaply funded network of worldwide radin contributors, many of whom are remuncrated on terms that are far from generous. Yet these particular cuts have little to do with the Foreign Office. They result from the allocation of resources

there is still a wasteful duplication of effort between the World Service, the corporation's own national newsgathering service, and the hurgeoning regional oews operations.

Simultaneously, staff - still recovering from the necessary rigours of the drive for efficiency - report instances of junketing by managers and incongruously expensive behaviour on the part of ancillary and planning staff. Some of these stories may be unfair or apocryphal, but it would aid the BBC's case if they did not persistently combine to generate hostile newspaper

Most important, however, the future of the World Service raises questions that go to the heart of the BBC's structural dilemma. Can it continue to maintain an autonomous editorial staff and separate premises? If they should merge, as logic might dictate, what are the implications for funding? Merging the World Service with the BBC's main news and current affairs department means mixing money from the licence fee with funds direct from the taxpayer. And since World Service TV accepts advertising abroad, this mix is further leavened by commercial revenue. There has been no substantial public discussion of the implications for pub-

lic accountability of this mix. These are all matters to which the BBC must address itself if it wants to maintain a credible global radio and television presence. Blaming the Foreign Office will no

### ANOTHER VIEW Tony Benn

### Tax cuts we cannot afford

The vote in the House of Commons on Tuesday night against the tax cuts proposed in the Budget marks an important development in the return to integrity in British politics.

Throughout the Eighties the British people were persuaded that the scale of the public services was the cause of our economic decline and that cuts in income tax were desirable, leaving the tax burden to be imposed on the poor by higher indi-

Things have moved on since then, however, and more and more people are coming to realise that the huge tax cuts made for the very richest widened the gap hetween the rich and poor, undermined the possibility of providing the health and education services that we need and, indeed, strangled local government, which also provides essectial

No doubt next year, as a final gift to its wealthy supporters, the Government will make even more slashing cuts in personal taxation, hoping to leave the Treasury bare so that an incoming Labour government will lack the resources to meet people's needs.

If Labour is going to win the argument as well as tha vote, it has to be quita clear about income tax and not pretend that it can be cut and that public services can be maintained and improved.

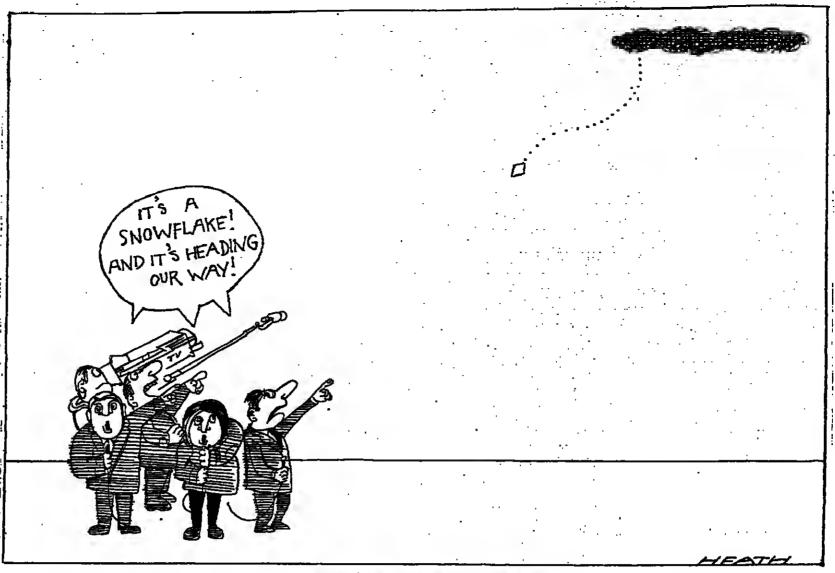
In 1959 Hugh Gaitskell gave a pledge during the election campaign that a Labour government would not increase taxation, and that statement punctured the credibility of the Labour case like a pin in the balloon, for after that, no one really believed that a Labour government could solve the problems it would

As we are seeing now in France, the international financial community is absolutely determined to destroy the welfare state in order to bring about a single currency administered by a central bank that would be free from any democratic control, and the social cost of this policy

will be catastrophic. The Labour Party now must face the harsh reality. It must bring its thinking up to date and start thinking the unthinkable again; namely, that people need to be put ahead of profit, and must be put above the demands of interna-

tional capital. The MPs who voted against the tax cuts on Tuesday night were making a stand for the public services against the bankers who would like to take over the world. And I suspect that there is enormous support for that position among thinking peo-ple who do not want to see our social fabric destroyed.

The writer is Labour MP for Chesterfield.



Weather brings Britain to its knees

## - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

Neither Labour nor the Con-

### Labour crusade to raise standards in schools | Sheep, cattle and CJD

From Mr David Blunkett Sir: Your news reports and analysis on Wednesday (6 December) suggest that the proposals in Lahour's paper on education, Excellence for Everyone, are Tory ideas. Far from it. Our proposals huild on the research carried out by those in the school improvement movement, described in your pages oo Tuesday by Michael Barber ("Today's lesson: excellence"),

across the country. The major difference between Labour and the Tories is not an argument about individual schemes. Having proposed our structural reforms in July, we have moved on to the central theme of raising standards in our schools.

and on the experience of schools

and Labour local authorities

The leaked memo from Gillian Shephard's presentation to the Cabinet in September revealed that she concedes that structures are less important than standards. Yet the only legislative proposals we had this year - in an education system for 7 million pupils - were plans to extend assisted places (adding around 3,000 extra pupils), compulsory opting out for church schools (opposed by the bishops), the paper promise of nurs-ery vouchers (rejected by several Tory councils) and a scheme to

military disaster

Recipe for US

is what we need when our pupils perform just half as well as those in Germany, Japan and France. We are talking about equipping our nation for the challenges of a new century and a global econ-omy. That is a task that this government has ignored in an effort to score petty party points on

Because we recognise the urgency of the proposals, we will announce a series of pilot Labour anthorities which will get our proposals under way - in part-nership with schools, teachers, parents and governors - before the Government finally calls a general election. The Tories may be satisfied with 35th place in the world education league. Labour certainly is not.
Yours faithfully,

DAVID BUUNKETT MP for Sheffield (Lab) House of Commons London, SW1 6 December

The writer is shadow secretary state for education and employment.

From the Earl Russell Sir: Is it a coincidence that Labour's plans to "improve education" by bashing teachers are announced on the same day on which, by failing to vote against the Budget tax cuts, that party has abandoned the hope of improving education by more convenget the banks to take on student tional means? Like the Conserdent (already spurned by the varives, Labour will need many Midland). whipping boys to carry the hlame for the consequences of its own failure to spend money.

servatives seem to understand that governments cannot improve education for the same reason they cannot improve our cricket: they cannot do the job themselves. They can only spend money to provide the facilities to enable our teachers or our cricketers to do the job themselves. They cannot force teachers to teach according to any professional conscience but their own. To believe otherwise is like believing that coaching can turn Devon Malcohn into a world-

If there is anything wrong with profession's culture, the members of the profession will change it much faster if they do oot have to spend all their time asserting against the state their right to have a professional judgement of

More generally, do these pro posals mark the point at which Labour has been made redundant? For those who do not Liberal Democrats offer the only alternative. For those who do believe in present policies, are the Conservatives, with a commitment tempered by experience preferable to a Labour Party that would follow them with all the unwary zeal of a convert? Yours sincerely,

RUSSELL House of Lords London, SW1 6 December The writer is Liberal Democrat social security spokesman in the House of Lords.

### Too much defence. too little industry

From Mr Norman Moss Sir: President Clinton's instruc-From Mr Frank Allaun tions to American troops going to Bosnia are scarcely credible. He

pendent on printing at consider-able length Britain's chief scientold them: "If you think you are tist's "savage attack on UK arms industry" (report, 1 December). This important news received no about to be attacked, you may respond with massive firecoverage at all in nearly all the

This is a recipe for disaster, the kind of disaster that occurred in Vietnam, as when some American officers in Saigon panicked when a car backfired and started shooting wildly, killing five Vietnamese (and none was court martialled), and in Somalia when American

helicopter gunships killed dozens of Somalis pointlessly. It makes one appreciate the behaviour of the British Army in Northern Ireland. Yours sincerely London, W12

### Nick's not for kids

From Mr Nicolas Walter Sir: John Rawlins makes three mistakes in his defence of Father Christmas (Letters, 6 December). He says that "pretending" is one of the joys of childbood; but in this case it is parents who have the joy of pretending and children who have the pain of finding out the truth. He says that no child ever suffered from the experience; but for many it is a considerable shock to learn that parents tell deliberate lies. And he says that if there is no God or heaven. it isn't wrong to tell lies, but it is wrong for human, not superhuman, reasons. Yours faithfully, NICOLAS WALTER

Rationalist Press Association

television, radio, motor cycles,

Sir: Congratulations to the Inde-

other newspapers.
The President of the Royal
Society, Sir Michael Atiyah, condemned our huge expenditure on nuclear and conventional weapons on economic grounds and for the waste of resources involved, not to mention the moral objection, which is still more serious.

The House of Commons Research Section (5 April 1995) informed Labour MP Harry Cohen that if our arms spending were reduced as a proportion of GNP to the average of the other European Nato nations, it would save no less than £7.6bn a year. That would provide a tremendous boost to education, housing, the NHS and social security.

Further, the British government devotes no less than 42 per cent of its research to "defence" (compared with 5 per cent in Japan). It is unsurprising that Japan has been able to conquer the world market in electronics,

motor cars, and even heavy engineering (such as shipbuilding).

Despite the ending of the Cold War, the Ministry of Defence is this year spending £23bn, money that is needed for pressing civil

For six consecutive years Labour's annual conference delegates have carried a resolution stating that Britain's share of the gross national product going to the military should be reduced to the average proportion of the other European Nato govern-ments and that there should be conversion of those armament factories concerned to non-mili-

tary production.
Each year the Labour leadership has either ignored that decision or has publicly and brutally rebutted it. Yet the annual delegate conference is our party's supreme policy-making body. This year the executive dodged debating the issue at all (because they knew that it would again be This kind of treatment, if con-

tinued, will destroy the party's democracy. FRANK ALLAUN Labour Action for Peace Manchester 1 December

### Talking about MS

From Mr Peter Cardy Sir. Jo Brand does not have it oute right in saying Stuart Henry
did not tell people he had multiple scierosis (Diary, 2 December). In 1982, when his speech
had become noticeably affected,

Yours faithfully, Stuart did indeed make his illness known to Radio Linembourg lis-teners, and the station launched Multiple Sciences Society an appeal for the work of London, SW6

the Multiple Sclerosis Society. With his colleague Tony Prince and friends from the music husiness, Stuart was instrumental in

Yours faithfully, PETER CARDY

From Mr Les Galloway, Sir: We are told that BSE is a form of scrapie that entered the cattle population through feed contaminated with infected sheep offal. If this is the case, then obviously the disease can cross between species and, therefore, potentially infect humans. The difficulty with this hypothesis is that there is no need to postulate cattle as an intermediate step. Scrapie has been endemic among the sheep population for generations, and if it were going to cross species with any case, then we should have heard much more about mad sheep disease in the past, and the incidence of Kreutzfelt-Jacob disease would

be much greater. The question that this generates can be phrased in two ways. If it is safe to eat sheep, then why should it not be safe to eat cattle? Alternatively, if it there is a risk involved in cating cattle, why is the risk not even greater in eat-

Yours faithfully, LES GALLOWAY. Leicester 5 December

From Dr H. C. Grant, FRCP Sir. "We need an independent assessment of the dangers posed to humans by BSE in cattle" (leading article, 6 December). Quite. And the soothing official voices heard on the subject today are, directly or indirectly, curployed by the Government or the meat industry.

Being retired, I am indepen-

dent, and as a neuropathologist I spent about 30 years in London's hospitals teaching about the pathology of brain diseases, including CJD. I deal in facts. Facts are what the public are not getting and facts are what they need to help them decide whether to eat beef or not. Here

are some facts: 1. BSE CJD and scrapie (the disease in sheep that infected cat-tie between 1981 and 1988) are all caused by the same sinister and almost indestructible agent. Experiments carried out on

scrapie since the last war reveal

that it is easy to transmit to many mammals, including primates. 2. The oft-repeated official statement that BSE cannot cause CJD is incorrect. Correct is: "It is not known whether BSE can cause CID." And we will not know until about 2005 A.D: if the number of CJD cases in the UK then suddenly jumps by, say, a factor of 10, we shall know.

3. It is the brain that is infective - even in (outwardly healthy) animals that are incubating the disease. Adult cattle brains were banned from our "meat products" (meat pies, pâtés, stock cubes and tinned items) io November 1989 but calves' brains were and still are exempt although calves may be born incubating

4. Unlike cattle brains, sheeps' brains were never removed from the skull in the abattoirs to be added to our foods. That is why we have not had much bother with scrapie-infected meat over the centuries. Yours faithfully.

HRIS BERAS

H. C. GRANT London, NW3

From Mr Brian P. James Sir: I cannot see much sense in the removal of beef from school dinner menus ("Parents win a schools ban on beef in 'mad cow alert", 6 December) while continuing to provide custard, cheese and ice-cream, all made from that intimate bovine body fluid, milk. We know little about the mysterious BSE agent apparently, except that it is not destroyed by any pasteurisation process, no matter how aggressive. Is Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, quite happy about this, too?

Yours faithfully, BRIAN P. JAMES Maidenhead. Berkshire 6 December

### Queen Mother's example for all

From Dr Kyvelie Papas, MD Sir: I believe that if the Queen Mother - to whom I sincerely wish a speedy recovery and many happy, mobile and pain-free years - is, very rightly at 95 years of age, entitled to a hip operation, then no health authority in this country has the right to refuse life-saving or pain-freeing treatment to anyone on the grounds of age, while still maintaining that it serves a National Health Service. Yours faithfully,

KYVELIE PAPAS London, W2 6 December

0800 906609.

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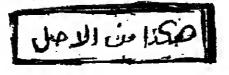
### Vive la France, vive la révolution

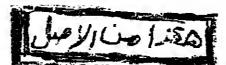
From Mr Ian Flintoff Sir. Thank God for France! They are a people who believe that the first priority of government must be the well-being of the population, and that it is around this aim that national politics and economics must somehow be shaped and honed.

How different from the timorous and docile British. For 10 years, economic theorists have declared war on their immediate interests, reduced thousands to paralysed squalor, and taken pos-session of the only political instrument that might have defended them -but didn't - the Labour Party.

The greatest failure in Britain today is not the social and economic divide, or class, or the greed of the boardroom -it is the docility, subservience, and submission of the British people themselves. Yours sincerely, IAN FLINTOFF London, SW6

From Mr Lionel M. Redit Sir. Will 1995 make 1789 look like 1968? Yours sincerely, LIONEL REDIT London, N2





# comment

# Rebels come from every direction

Labour's left could cause trouble for a Blair government – but he might gain unexpected support

owever disdainful the country may feel about politicians, surely no one can feel anything but slackjawed admiration for the achieve-ments of Tony Blair's spin doctors.

On Tuesday night, on the Budget vote, there was a Labour rebellion when some left-wing MPs voted against the Chancellor's tax cats, rather than abstaining as they had been told to. Yesterday morning, this was hailed on television and radio as a personal triumph for the I about leader. triumph for the Labour leader.

It was a small rebellion, admittedly; and income tax is a particularly sensi-tive issue for the left - but a revolt is a revolt is a revolt. Ten disobedient MPs is surely a mild embarrassment? There were, after all, fewer whipless Tory rebels. Yet the general mood was, In Private Eve speak, large ones all round. Senior Shadow Cabinet people were talking of this as a turning point in Labour history. Well, as I say, there is no arguing with success. Hats off to

But are the implications that the hard left is now in effect dead - that the internal socialist challenge which has been a fact of life for all Labour leaders since the Pifties finally gone for ever? Persuading the public of this is extremely important for Blair as he sells Britain "new Labour". It may of 57, two are in their seventies, and have been long ago, but memories of the Bennite uprising and union miliforties. It was bardly a teenage revolt tancy are still fresh in the minds of Benn himself, now 70, remains the

pelling story to tell. It isn't only that pendent of the fortunes of the left genthe Campaign Group, formed in 1982, has never looked weaker. The hard left has always been weak in Parliament.

union culture that allowed Labour leftism to flourish has largely disap-peared. The proliferation of leftist groups inside the Labour Party, the moral force of CND during the Cold War, the powerful union shop stew-ards committee and the culture of industrial confrontation that gave all

left-wing MPs their weekly cause and rally point – it has mostly gone.

The changes to tha Labour Party pushed through by Neil Kinnock, John Smith and Tony Blair amount to a conster revolution, which stripped counter-revolution, which stripped away all the power centres built up by the left, virtually dismantling the annual conference as a serious policy-making event. The National Executive Committee where core the March 18 of the Property of mittee, where once the hard left were the biggest group, has dwindled in sig-nificance. Real policy is decided by the leadership, in private; at times it seems that Labour policy on any given subject is simply what Tony Blair says it is. All of this puts left-wing Labour

MPs in a different position from the Bevanites, Tribunites and Campaign Groupers of earlier years. Some of them can still pack meetings. But by comparison with previous generations of leftists they are isolated figures. Many are getting on in years. The 10 rebels this week have an average age

any voters.

And the truth is that he has a comand has a status and following indeerally. In the Commons, his interventions on everything from procedure to the Bosnian conflict still draw MPs It is more that the political and trade- into the chamber - not something you



ANDREW MARR Columnist of the Year

The average age of the rebels was 57. It was hardly a teenage revolt

can say about any other member. Nice though it must be to have achieved guru status, however, it is a comedown from the days when he was poised to take over the Labour Party. If you want to change the world, the last thing you need from the British parliament is its affection.

One could reasonably conclude from all this that the Labour left really is dead. Some senior Labour people certainly think that. One senior Shadow Cabinet member reckons that all but nine or len of the current Campaign Group are "biddable" - keen for government office.

But it would be foolish for Labour modernisers to relax entirely. Preelection politics is an unreliable guide to life in office. A leftist MP who attacks the leadership now would be accused of damaging the party's chances of ending 18 years of Tory rule. Under a Labour government with a decent majority, that pressure comes extent to which Blair could achieve all

glamorous again. As the Tory Maastricht rebels discovered, media enthusiasm for vivid quotes from dissident MPs on the Westminster lawn is insatiable. The airtime and coverage gives any consistent, eloquent rebel a greater status in the country and better access to voters than the average minister of state - and without the paperwork. So I think that if a Blair Cabinet is

locked in confrontation with nurses, teachers or local government staff. it is reasonable to assume that the parliamentary left will rediscover its instincts. However discouraging Blair and Gordon Brown are now, there will be a time of inflated expectations and then of expectation dashed. There will be arguments about Europe and

This is why Blair's compelling story also an unfinished story. So far ahead, the size and danger of such rebellions are impossible to predict. But that they will happen is predictable. And, in a way, they need to. The

Commons is already grevly unrepre-sentative of the variety of British opinions - for instance, there is not a single well-known environmentalist MP which is pretty bizarre. That is part of Parliament's problem. The less dissidence and conversation it contains, the less the Commons as an institution matters. Voting reform would mean a wider variety of opinions daring to express themselves, Until then, however, I suspect that we will see more, not less, fracturing of party discipline as MPs respond to the market for alternative voices.

off a hit. Rebellion would become his centralist, pro-European and reformist ambitions for office on the basis of iron discipline. He clearly wants to. He is trying to forge a hardedged parliamentary force to sustain him for 10 years or more. But even the Tories have found this discipline increasingly difficult. So what if it isn't possible?

I was very struck recently by hear-ing a mainstream contralist Tory MP speculate about what would happen if his party lost the 1997 election and chose, in his words, a "Portillo-type leader". He would not leave the Conservatives, he said. He had been in the party too long to do that. But he and his friends might act as a "disloyal opposition". If Blair proposed something on Europe or economic policy that they thought good for the country, they would be likelier to back him against his own left wing than to follow the Tory nationalist leader in the

lobby against him.

An outlandish thought I know, Yet if small groups of leftists can vote against the party line, so can others, Is it impossible to imagine Blair riding different voting coalitions in the Commons on different issues, countering leftist rebellions on, say, constitutional votes by using Liberal Democrat support and turning at

other times to pro-European Tories? That is a kind of politics we can scarcely imagine today. It would return the Commons to the time before it was dominated by rigidly predictable twoparty whipping. It would create a more fluid and more interesting parliamentary politics. And it would be to use Blair's phrase of the moment. impeccably One Nation.

who did take part in the main study

until quite a late stage. But it seems

that the French dashed off the answers

with Gallie flair and self-confidence -

Britain would not show up too well.)

about national league tables, fascinating though they may be. There are much bigger issues here. First, we put a great deal of energy

We have a string of

qualifications not

relevant to future life.

This must be nuts

into consumer labelling on food products, supposedly to enable consumers to know how much fat/fibre/chemicals

they contain. But if two-thirds of the

population cannot understand these,

what is the point? (Working out the

percentage of calories in a Big Mac

hamburger that came from fat was one of the most difficult tasks on the

can be done to improve adult literacy If people read a lot, or write letters,

they become better at it. By contrast, those who watch the most television in every single country are the worst

Second, there are clearly things that

whole scale.)

But this really ought not to be

TGVs, baguettes and class war

At this very moment the an altempt to get rid of an entire class of person. The arisitself apart over the question of social welfare. Canada, which has perhaps the worst deficit and debt problems of all the top nations, is seriously worried over the level of spending on welfare and is thinking of drastic steps to reduce it. It will come as no surprise to anyone to learn that our own government is running scared about the amount it spends on the welfare state, and that the US adminis-

tration is in the same mood. All through the Western world, regimes are taking a good hard look at the huge amount of money they are paying on people who need it, but who don't seem to deserve it.

The poor and the needy, in

other words.
"Yes. I'm afraid so," sighs Professor Jean-Paul Suture, visiting French history expert at the University of Wessex. "The unspoken agreement that prosperous governments should look after their poorer constituents is beginning to break down. The more people clam-our for attention, the less likely they are to get it. That is what the struggle in France is all about at the moment."

But surely this has always gone on: students have always fought for more grants, the unemployed have fought for more benefits, the homeless have always demanded a roof?

"It's true. What is different is that governments are begin-ning to turn round and put two fingers up at them. And governments are beginning to put into practice their own secret

Could Professor Suture perhaps elaborate on that?

"Certainly," says Professor Suture, sliding back in his chair, propping two fingers under his chin and looking every inch a professor about to deliver a world-shaking message. "Think of my native France again for a moment. Here we have one of the most civilised nations in the world. Yet from time to Only to get them wrong.

Cynics believe that the reason the French withdrew from the study was hecause they seemed to be doing so badly. (Before anyone crows at French time it is thrown into the utmost paroxysm of change. Two hundred years ago, we had the French Revolution. Then we had an empire. Then we had discomfort, they should be aware that the kings back. Then we threw our own resistance to joining may have the kings out and became a republic. Then ... but you get heen because we were worried that violent change, non?

> "Now, tell me what happened in the French Revolution."

> They cut the king's head off?
> "Yes, but that by itself is not revolutionary. After all, you English cut your king's head off in 1648, but 12 years later everything was back to normal. You never really had a revolu-tion. What happened in the French Revolution of true significance was that they also cut the aristocrats' heads off. It was

much power. Ergo, get rid of the aristos, keep the power and the money."

I don't see what that has to do with today. "Today the problem is not

the aristocrats. It is the poor. Yes, but you can't gel rid of the poor the way you could the

"You think not?" says Prorou time not: says re-fessor Suture, raising his eye-brows. "You must not get me wrong, my friend. I am not in favour of eliminating the poor, It has many overtones which I do not like. But you must admit that it is an idea which must

appeal to many people in power,

"Pensez-v. mon ami. You are
running a country. Every day
you are spending billions of
pounds on people who do no work and pay no taxes. To begin with, you feel sorry for them. To end up, you feel mad with them. If only they were not there!



"Then you get the secret thought; maybe ... maybe get rid of them."

But how would that be possible? Surely there would be an outery if it started to happen?

"It has started already, mon and. The amount of deaths on the roads goes up. The amount of new diseases goes up. The amount of hombs being exploded in Paris goes up. Pollu-tion, mad cow disease, Aids ... all these things are part of a conspiracy to cut down the

Of course, it is really war that reduces population best. but wars are very expensive. They are not cost-effective. Accidents and disease are so much better in the long run."

The professor really thinks this is happening in France? "If it happens at all, it must happen in France. lover-rous. mon ami, the French are much better at getting things done That is why we have a TGV and you do not. That is why we have a nuclear programme. Think of the difference in our national anthems. "The Marseillaise" is aggressive and revolutionary and calls for change. "God Save the Queen" demands for everything to stay the way it is.

Yes, I think France will be there first. But I must not say any more. Wait till you see my deeply troubling series on Channel 4. Adieu, Les Paintes." I can't wait.

In an ever more complex world, literate adults are crucial to economic performance and social cohesion

# An overdose of illiteracy

Can you read the label on an aspirin bottle, and understand that you should not take the medicine for longer than a week? Good, you are at the minimum level of adult literacy. Now try the weather report published in this paper and work out the difference in the temperature yesterday between Tokyo and Hong Kong, If you can manage that, you are at least at .. grade two - but sadly between 10 and 20 per cent of the population of a typical developed country could not. Now think of a Which? report, say the double-page spread this month ranking different camcorders. Only 10 to 20 per cent of the people in a typical developed country would understand



it well enough to answer correctly com-plicated questions on it. In our daily lives we face a string of ever more complicated reading, writing and arithmetical tasks. Labels on food carry more information; consumer goods have increasingly complicated manuals, and as for a credit-card appli-

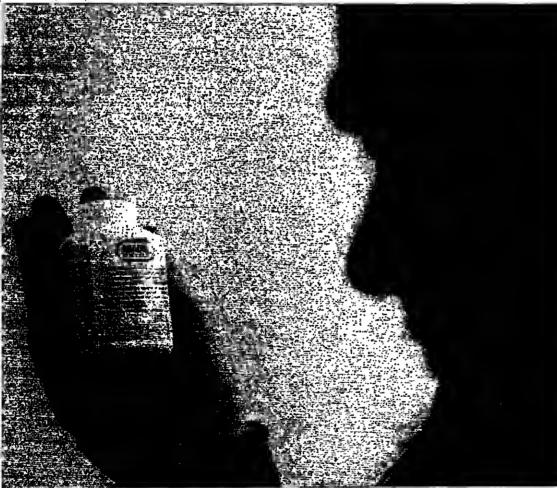
would still miss something.
Part of the problem is that many instructions are "written" by people who cannot write. But even allowing for this, the fact remains that in the workplace the demands for literacy are rising, so that many people find themselves excluded from the middle and

cation form, you need a degree in eco-

nomics and consumer law and you

upper levels of their organisations.
The problem is widely recognised:
witness, for example, this week's statement on education from the Labour Party, Excellence for All. Adult literacy is crucial not only to economic performance, but also to social cohesion; for the more complicated societybecomes, the greater the proportion of people who will be marginalised.

Yet until today there was no study comparing adult literacy in different developed nations. There were figures on academic credentials: numbers of people getting diplomas or degrees. And there were crude measures of performance of schoolchildren: how they performed in standard maths tests, for example. But there was nothing on how well adults could read the things they needed to in their daily lives.



The painful truth: one in five American adults can just about read an aspirin label and not much more

Now there is: A new study, Literacy, Economy and Society, was yesterday published by the OECD in Paris, It looks at seven countries - the US, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Poland ranking adult literacy on a common basis. No. Britain did not take part. though we will in the future, and a pilot study is showing interesting results. And France was not included either. More about that in a moment. First, how did the study work?

The idea was not to set an exam, but to look at the extent to which people could correctly interpret the various documents they meet from day to day. The organisers took a sample of 2,000 to 3,000 people in each country and questioned them about the same sort of document, in their own language, and taken from their own culture.

The questions were graded by dif-

aspirin label ranked as one, the one on a newspaper weather map as two, and n complicated question on the con-

sumer report would be four or five. The study looked at three sorts of hiteracy. One was prose; just words, like the aspirin label. A second was document literacy, where there were words and figures - an airline timetable or a Which? report. The third was quantitative literacy, where in addition to reading, the reader had to make a simple calculation, such as working out the difference in temperature in two cities on the weather map.

So who did best? The clear overall winner was Sweden, with both the largest proportion of people in the top grades and the smallest in the lowest. But even in Sweden about a third of the population would not be able to fill out a simple stationery requisition form. ficulty, one to five: the one on the Aside from poor Poland, which came

bottom on just about every measure. the worst results at the lower end of the scale came from the US. About 20 per cent of its adult population could just about manage an aspirin bottle label but not much more.

(and Canadians) did very well, almost as well as the Swedes, and better than the Germans, Swiss or Dutch.

How might we fare? Well, there are only pilot studies so far and the results are not out yet. Common sense suggests that we will be somewhere between North America and Sweden: in the middle of the European pack.

But one point which has emerged is that Britons seem to take a lot of care in answering the questions, taking more time than any other nationality. Since a lot of the questions need a bit of care, we may come out rather better than we might expect. This is in contrast to the French,

readers. So anything that encourages people to read more will help them to read better. If you have reached this point in this article, take a bow. Third, and most important, is the However at the top end Americans

question of whether there should be a new qualification for adult literacy. It is not the same as educational achievement. Obviously there is a relationship between the two, but there were plenty of people with limited educational achievements who did very well in the tests and a few people with wonderful degrees who did very badly.

Most employers need people who can read and write well, and can add up. They are less interested in whether 10 years earlier they achieved three A's at A-level and an Upper Second in Classical Civilisation. So we have a string of qualifications that are not relevant to future life and not one single one that is. This must be nuts.

by Tony Reeve and Steve Way

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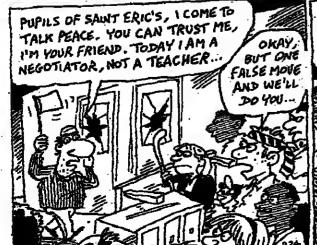
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# **Lord Matthews**

Lord Matthews, who died at his retirement home on Jersey on his 76th birthday, was the very epitome of the Thatcherite tycoon who rose to fame, fortune and a peerage from humble

His most public role, and the one in which he made the hulk of his fortune, was as a somewhat unusual press lord, as chairman of Fleet Holdings, owners of the Express Group of newspapers from 1977 to 1985. But before he became involved with Fleet Holdings he had already made a name for himself as Sir Nigel Broackes's partner in huilding up Trafalgar House from a relatively modest builders into an industrial group controlling Cunard and the Ritz Hotel, among other famous

Victor Matthews was born in 1919 in what was then the humhle London horough nf Isling-ton. Although he enjoyed all the trappings of being a tycoon, the Rolls Royces and the racehorses (his only son became a trainer), he remained a kindly and unpretentious figure throughout his life he never lost his cockney accent and some of his boyhood habits (his nick-name "Whelks" came from his fondness for them). Indeed throughout his life he retained the hlunt, straightforward atti-tude of a builder. Editors, he once said, were like site managers. "If they give you trouble, get rid of them.

He never knew his father -'That's a hlank part," he once told an interviewer, adding that his boyhood ambitions had been to play for Arsenal, the local team, and to he a reporter ementary education he began work as office boy in a tobacco company, attending night school to improve himself. During the Second World War he served for six years in the Navy, numbering the evacuation at Dunkirk and a spell in Combined Operations among his experiences, although he never rose above the rank of able sea-man. Nnr did he show any great leadership qualities in his first post-war job, the 10 years he spent with Trollope & Colls, although he rose to become a contracts manager. He did, however, rise quickly to become a director of his next employer, Clark and Fenn, whom he left supposedly after a row when he was ordered to return prematurely from a family

In 1960 he went independent by huying up a small huilding husiness. Within faur years turnover had risen eight times to over £2m and be attracted the notice of another up-andcoming husinessman, Nigel Broackes of Trafalgar House, who bought a minority interest in Matthews' firm. For the next 15 years they worked together to huild up a highly successful conglomerate. Their roles were strictly divided: Broackes, the smooth former Guards officer. was the strategist, while the hlunt Victor Matthews ran the husinesses. These, which included not only a number of huilding companies but also the Ritz Hotel and Cunard, all greatly from benefited Matthews' no-nonsense, handsnn management style - though

fess theirs was purely a business partnership, the social gulf between them being so great that, according to one friend, they never visited each other's

Mntthews might have remained a relatively anonymous husinessman had Trafalgar not bought control of Fleet Holdings in 1977 after a 13-year decline, following the first Lord Beaverbrook's death in 1964. Matthews became increasingly involved in the newspapers, especially after they had been floated as a separate public

Although his first pronouncements were typical of a press lord ("All that Beaverbrook has stood for in the past will be continued. Let us not undersell the company or the Dai-ly Express . . . Our aim is fir a family newspaper to appeal to all classes and all members of the family"), he was never at ease with journalists and never got the hang of newspaper jargon - he always referred to the lead story, commonly known as the "splash", as the "leader". Not surprisingly he was unpre-pared for the labour chaos which prevailed in Fleet Street at the time. According to Derek Jameson, another cockney character who Matthews appointed editor of the Daily Express, he tried to treat Fleet Street "by the rules of the huilder's yard - a fair day's wage for a a fair day's work ... but he never quite

to the systematic thieving which had been prevalent before his arrival. As Brian Hitchen, a former editor of the Daily Star, put it, "When the union delegations knocked at his door with ridiculous wage demands they did so at their peril."

Matthews avoided confrontation by declaring that "Fleet Street was nnt overmanned but underemployed", and in 1978 used some of the group's excess printing capacity in Manchester to create the Daily Star, the first national tabloid newspaper to be started from scratch since 1914. The Star was attacked as taking the tabloid market downmarket hut has prospered modestly.

Matthews was a natural Thatcherite and claimed to be the higgest individual donor to the Conservative Party after he had realised that you could give money in the name of a company rather than as an individual. In 1980 he got his reward in the form of a peerage, even though the previous year Trafalgar House had knocked down the famous Firestone Building in west London over a weekend to prevent the enforcement of a preservation order due to take effect on the

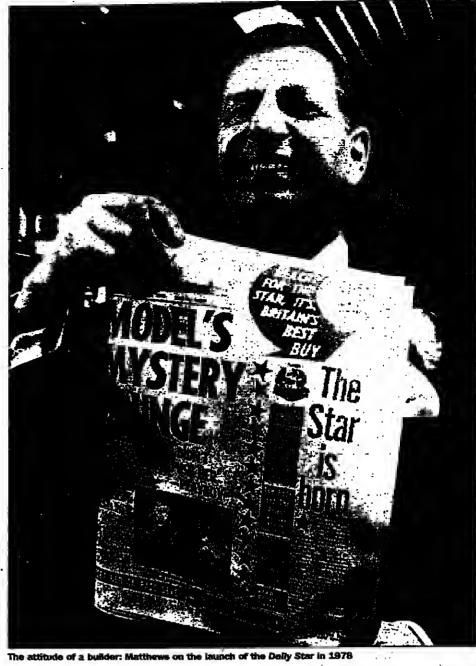
following Monday.
In the early 1980s he was on the losing side in two major takeover bids, first when Robert Holmes à Court took over Sir Lew Grade's Associated Communciations Corporation, in which Trafalgar House had a major stake, and then in 1985, when Fleet Holdings group succumbed to a hostile hid by got the hang of Fleet Street".

But Matthews did manage to dent union power and put a stop by then the value of the group

had multiplied a hundredfold to over £300m. Much of this was due to the group's holding in Reuter's. Indeed Matthews is credited with being the first newspaper proprietor to understand the value of the enormous treasure trove represented by the shares held in the company by most of the national newspaper groups. He left the group with the consolation that his shareholdings were worth around £8m.

Following the bid Matthews faded from the picture and retired as deputy chairman of Trafalgar House in 1985, since when the group has lost its way and suffered a series of ap-palling problems. He also grew disillusioned with Mrs Thatcher because of the high degree of unemployment which persisted during the mid-1980s. His last years were lonely, a state of mind accentuated by the death in October of Joyce, his wife of 50 years.

Victor Collin Matthews, businessman: bom London 5 De-cember 1919; group managing director, Trafalgar House plc 1968-77, deputy chairman 1973-85, group chief executive 1977-83; chairman, Cunard Steam Ship Company 1971-83; chairman, Ritz Hotel (London) 1976-83; chairman, Express Newspapers plc 1977-85, chief ex-ecutive 1977-82; chairman, Fleet Publishing International Holdings Ltd 1978-82, Fleet Holdings 1982-85; created 1980 Baron Matthews; married 1942 Joyce Pilbeam (died 1995; one son); died St Brelades, Jersey 5



# General Dmitri Volkogonov

Perestroika and its intellectual twin, glasnost, represented a relatively short-lived moment when the idea of deep reform of the system seemed inextricably bound up with an urgent need to dispel the lies and myths of Soviet everyday life and history, a recognition of the belief that it was impossible to move forward before shedding the burdens of the past. Paradoxically, it was a three-star general, a former head of the army's Political Administration and latterly Director of the Institute of Military History, who mounted the first full-scale, fully documented Soviet historiographical assault on the

Stalinist system.

Dmitri Volkogonov started to write his book Stalin: triumph and trugedy in 1978, and it was almost complete by 1985 when Gorbachev came to power. By Soviet Union in 1990, virtually every principle and axiom of the previous 70 years had been challenged and rejected. Volkogonov followed his Stalin with an even more iconoclastic study of Trotsky (to be published in English as Trotsky: the eternal revolutionary in spring 1996). and in 1994 published Lenin: life and legacy, his root-and-branch intellectual demolition of Lenin and the system he created. As Chairman of the Russian Archives Declassifying Commission from the time of the abortive coup attempt in August 1991, he was in a unique posi-tion to shed light on the dark corners of the Soviet past.

Born in 1928 in Chita, Eastern Siberia, Dmitri Antonovich Volkogonov was the son of a collective farm-manager father and a schoolteacher mother. In shot for possessing a pamphlet nipotence and his criminal ma-

by Bukharin, as the son later learned from his own archival research. The family were then exiled to Krasnoyarsk in Western Siberia: Volkogonov quipped that, as they were already in the Far East and Stalin was not in the hahit of sending his political prisoners to

Hawaii, they had to be sent west. In 1945, he joined the army and revealed an aptitude for the theoretical side of military af-fairs. Despite his politically duhious background (and the constant surveillance he was under at military school), he quickly rose in rank, entering the Lenin Military Academy in Moscow in 1961, where he attained a PhD and a professorship. Transferred in 1970 to the propaganda department of the army, he wrote numerous books on defence issues, ranging from Cold War propaganda tracts to the time it was published in the manuals on psychological warfare. He gained a well-deserved

reputation as a hard-liner. Having taken a big knock in 1956, when Khrushchev made his famous "secret speech" to the Party's Twentieth Congress. Stalin's image was left virtually untouched throughout the Brezhnev era, when Volkogonov was making his career. Throughout this time, however, he was gathering material for a book on Stalin. In this be intended to show how the dictator and his minions actually operated, concentrating on the central role of terror as an instrument of political control. By the time he was writing the latter part of the book, in the early 1980s, however, he had arrived at the view that Soviet history had been a lethal comhination of Lenin's authoritar-

Volkonogov in the archives of the tristitute of Military History, Moscow, 1988

valries and inertia, the passive character of the Russians and their love of a strong leader,

their ignorance of hoth democracy and personal autonomy.

Volkonogov admitted pub-licly that he no longer believed in the dogmas and myths he had once accepted, not that he would claim ever to have been a dissident of the open kind he came to admire, such as Sakharov or Solzhenitsyn. He recognised that, like so many of the old Soviet nomenklatura, he ian Communism, Stalin's had lived two mental lives, pur-1937 his father was arrested and ruthless drive for personal om- suing a successful career in the army, while assembling mater-

a high degree of disaffection could not continue for long without consequences. In 1985 he was warned that his historical research was incompatible with his work in the army's Main Political Administration, and that be must choose one or the nther. He opted to become Director of the Institute of Mili-

tary History, where he completed his book on Stalin. Alone among the senior military, Volkogonov, as People's Deputy for the Orenburg region in the Russian parliament, openly espoused the political

nipulation of internal party ri- ial to reinterpret Soviet histo- philosophy of liberal democrary as assiduously as any under- cy, market economics, and a ground writer of samizdat. Such new, freely negotiated charter of union for the republics, or their independence, if that was what they wanted. And he called for official condemnation: of Stalin's crimes. In July 1990, addressing the Twenty-eighth Party Congress, he warned that, if the Party did not reconcile itself to the twin principles of the rule of law and the primacy of democracy, it would suffer the same fate as that of the Com-

mnnist Parties of Eastern Europe in 1989. In June 1991, the draft of a new history of the Second World War, prepared under

Volkogonov's editorship at the Institute, was reviewed by all the senior staff, including the then Defence Minister, Marshal Yazov. The Soviet failure in 1941 was ascribed in the book to the central weakness of the system itself, namely the paralysis of individual will and initiative caused by the weight of a bureaucracy immobilised by terror.

his hospital bed, for a general who was still on the active list he took an enormous risk in broadcasting through the BBC and was appointed special defence adviser to President Yeltsin.

Volkogonov earned a repntation as one of the most approachable senior figures in the new establishment. He rarely refused an interview, received countless petitioners. the army, and was widely perceived as humane and considerate. From summer 1991 to late 1993, he was also head of the commission for the declassification of state and party papers. During his tenure, 78 million files were released into the public domain.

Another of his jobs at this time was as chairman of a commission set up to discover what had happened to the crews of some 40 Nato aircraft, about 100 American airmen, shotdown by Soviet air defences mostly but not all over Soviet territory - in the course of the

been trying in vain for three years to get an answer. The new government's goodwill was being undermined by the KGB and Russian military intelli-gence who, like most of the top brass, saw Volkogonov as one of the gang that had sold the Soviet army down the river, humiliated and disgraced it by their eager surrender of Eastern Eu-He was practically jumped on by the entire "generalitet" and forced to resign his job.

He was in Oxford undergoing surgery for cancer when the attempted coup took place in Moscow in August 1991. From ment, but made him a fated man among his former friends man among his former friends

and colleagues. Castigated by the historical broadcasting through the BBC an appeal to the Soviet army not to obey the illegal orders of the own advantage, he was to come Moscow in early September when Yeltsin brought his confrontation with parliament to a violent and bloody close.

In December 1993, as the deputy chairman of the commission charged with putting. down the insurrection, Volkogonov was unapologetic about the government's use of force. He claimed to have spoken whether from the provinces or many times by telephone to the insurgents, guaranteeing their safety if they would lay down their arms. "The choice was simple," he argued. "We either had to suppress the rebellion or have the start of a new civil war." While lamenting the use of force, he believed that a victory for the anti-reformers would have led Russia back to the Gulag. It was an acute moral dilemma for a historian who had recently denounced the Soviet system precisely because it had

heen founded on the use of physical violence. An even more difficult phase opened with the decision by the December 1995.

Cold War. The US military had Yeltsin administration to invade Chechnya in the Caucasus in an effort to end its selfproclaimed independence and restore Russian rule. As a member of the President's Analytical Council, Volkogonov issued public warnings against the use of force to settle ethnic conflict, although he also accepted Yeltsin's argument that the regime in Chechnya was criminal and must be removed. He was sometimes accused uf pobitical trimming, of publishing books to suit the current leadership and changing course to remain favoured. It was a false accusation. He was quickly out of favour with the Gorbachev regime and its military leadership, and he was a far from obedient servant of the Yeltsin administration. In the bloodbath conspirators. He returned to under attack by the democrats that followed the decision to invade, Volkogonov, in Russian and Western media, criticised the Russian leader for having taken the advice of wrongheaded counsellors.

Throughout the time of this post-Soviet career, Volkogonov fought against cancer. It had been successfully treated by surgery on Oxford in 1991, but recurred in early 1993. Siberian by hirth, temperament and physical endurance, he suhjected himself to a wide range of the latest methods of chemotherapy, while continuing to work as a presidential adviser, as chairman of several commissions, as a memher of the Russian parliament, and writer of hig, historical studies.

Harry Shukman

Dmitri Antonovich Volkogonov; soldier and military historian: born Chita, Eastern Siberia 22 March 1928; married (two daughters); died Moscow 6

### Births, Marriages & Deaths

### DEATHS

ROBINSON: Bernard. Peacefully at ROBINSON: Bernard. Peacefully at home in Crosby, on 3 December, aged 84 years, dearly loved instand of the late Anne Robinson (née Wilson). Companion and friend of Marie Mercer, lather of Peter and Anne, grandfather of Emma, father-in-law of John Permose. A former teacher at St James's School, Bootle, his wit, humour and charm will be sadly missed, Requiem mass at SS Peter and Paul's Church, Liverpool Road, Crosby, Liverpool, on Thesday 12 December at 12 noon followed by interment in the churchyard. Flowers and further enquiries to Coyne Bros, Peel House, 87 Seaforth Road, Seaforth, Liverpool L21 3TY. Telephone 0151 928 3763.

### Lectures

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "In Trust for the Nation (iv): conversation pieces", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Shireen Akbar, "Islamic Art and Tate Gallery: David Rhodes, "The Monochrome Icon: Mark Rothkn's paintings", 1pm.

National Portrait Gailery: M.H. Port, "Cosway Lecture Series: George IV's houses", 1.10pm. Leicester University, Attenborough Lecture Theatre: Dr Bruce Boucher. "Renaissance Relief Sculpture and the Antique", 5.30pm.

### Birthdays

Miss Ellen Burstyn, actress, 63; Pro-fessor Noam Chomsky, linguist, 67; Mr Donald Crichton-Miller, former Mr Donald Crichton-Miller, former headmaster and rugby international, 89; Lord Elystan-Morgan, circuit judge and former MP, 63; Mr David Evans, trade unionist, 60; Mr Kaffe Fassett, textile designer, 58; Professor Sir Abraham Goldberg, physician, 72; Professor Norman Gowar, Principal, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, London, 55; Sir Bryan Hopkin, economist, 81; Mr Geoff Lawson, cricketer, 37; The Countess Lawson, cricketer, 37; The Countess of Limerick, Chairman, British Red Cross Society, 60; Mr Ivor Mills. writer and broadcaster, 66; Mr Mike Nolan, singer, 41; Mr Edmundo Ros, bandleader, 85; Dr Mário NOS. Dandieader, 85; Dr Mano Soares, President of Portugal, 71; The Rev Ronald Trounson, parish priest, and former Principal, St Chad's Col-lege, Durham, 69; Mr Eli Wallach, ac-tor, 80; Miss Helen Watts, concert and opera singer, 68.

### Anniversaries

Births: Gian Lorenzo Bernini, sculotor, 1598; Allan Cunningham, poet. 1784; Willa Sibert Cather, novelist, 1876; Arthur Joyce Lunel Cary, author, 1888; Stuart Davis, abstract painter, 1894. Deaths: Sir Peter Lely (Pieter van der Faes), portrait painter, 1680; Algemon Sidney, re-publican and patriot, beheaded 1683; Meindert Hobbema, landscape painter, 1709; William Bligh, captain of the *Bounty*, 1817; John Flanman, sculptor, 1826; William Swainson, naturalist, 1855; Ferdinand-Marie, Vicomte de Lesseps, engineer and diplomat, 1894; Sir Frederick Treves, physician, 1923; Thornton Niven

Wilder, novelist, 1975; Robert Ranke Graves, poet, 1985. On this day: Henry VI of England was crowned King of France, Paris, 1431; the Theatre Sir Fred Atkinson, economist, 76;

Royal, Covent Garden (now the Royal Opera House) was opened, 1732; William Pitt the Younger became prime minister, 1783; Delaware became the first of the United States, 1787; Gilbert and Sullivan's The Gondollers was first produced, 1889; an imperial edict authorised all Chinese to cut their pignalls, 1911; the first parliament of the Irish Free State met, 1922; the parliament of North-ern Ireland voted against being in-cluded in the Irish Free State, 1922; Japanese aircraft attacked Pearl Harbor, 1941. Today is the Feast Day of St Ambrose of Milan, St Buithe or Boethius, St Entychianus, St Mar-

### Professor T. Brooke Benjamin

A memorial service for Professor T. Brook Benjamin will be held on Sat-urday 27 January 1996 at 3pm in the University Church of S1 Mary the

### Wills

Mr Donald Norman Keating QC, ef London SE21, barrister and author, left estate valued at £962,078 net. Gp Capt Sir Hugh Spencer Lisle Dundas DSO, of London W8, the wartime fighter pilot and former Chairman of Thames Television left estate valued at £140,573. Sir Michael Trescaven Austin, of Okehampton, Devon, General Com-missioner of the Inland Revenue

1965-86, left estate valued at £417,710 net.

### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Quees and The Duke of Edinburgh visit Stallorddain. The Prisoc of Wales visits the College of Estate Management, Whitchaplets, Reading, Berkshire. The Prisocs of Wales visits the College of Estate Management, Whitchaplets, Reading, Berkshire. The Prisocsus of Wales, Patrot, Courcepoint, attends the charity's Asumal General Meeting at the Savoy Theatre, Strand, London W.C. The Prisocsus Royal Prisocsus Royal Prisocsus Royal Prisot for Committee of the Amy Board at the Officer. Mess of the King's Troop Royal House Artiflery, Stohar's Wood Burnicks, London NWI; and as President, Sow the Children Fasid, attends the Festival of These Gate Dinner at the Natural History Messum, Crumwell Road, London SWI, Prisocsus Managere, Hostorary President, British Moscum Development Time, attends a meeting of the Couclider of St. John Royal Supplies Bell at the Dordretter Hotel, London W.I. The Duke of Glosces for opens the estensions to the Chief Office of the Chebine Building Society, Macdessified, Cheshrire, opens Wilmstow Health Centre, Wilmstow, wish Ituno Park, Kunstinder, and opens the display are at ERF plc, San Warls, Sandbach. The Duke of Esset opens the new Headquarters of the Northeyson Bealth Authority, Northeyson; wish Strone Park, Kunstinder, and opens the display are at ERF plc, San Warls, Sandbach. The Duke of Esset opens the new Headquarters of the Northeyson Bealth Authority, Northeyson; wish Clevent Aerospace, Wilford, Northeyson; crimes in Patron, presents the Queest's Award for Export Achievement in Thirty College London, at the Honston of Londe, London SWI. Prison Michael of Kest attends the Apprentic Assurate Ceremory in the Conscounse Half, Ministry of Delence, London SWI. In the Conscounse Half, Ministry of Delence, London SWI. In the Conscounse Half, Ministry of Delence, London SWI. Duth, London SWI. Duth, London SWI.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment acousts the Queen's Life Guard at Booke Guards

Announcements for Gazetie BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, t Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London El4 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faced to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faced) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number. Announcements for Gazette RIKTHS

# Wheelclamping on private land was lawful

a notice erected by Armirac to the effect that vehicles left

there without authority would

be wheeldamped and a fee of

£40 charged for their release.

Although he later accepted

the fee was reasonable, Mr Arthur refused to pay it.

Following an acrimonious argument, during which Mrs Arthur assaulted Mr Anker,

both plaintiffs left. But that

night Mr Arthur returned and

succeeded in releasing his car.

When Mr Anker returned next

morning, both car and clamps

for compensation and damages,

the defendant successfully

advanced two defences. First

was the old medieval self-help

remedy of "distress damage

feasant" under which, if a

Against the plaintiffs' claim

had disappeared.

Court of Appeal (Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Hirst); 30 November 1995

The wheelclamping of a vehi-cle parked without authority on private land and its release only on payment of a fee was neither tortious nor criminal, provided that the motorist had seen, and could therefore be taken to have consented to, a notice on the land warning of such consequences, and that the release fee was reasonable, easily payable and resulted in

The Court of Appeal dis-missed an appeal by the plain-tiffs, David and Annette Arthur, against the decision of Judge Anthony Thompson QC, sitting in Truro County Court on 7 May 1993: (i) dismissing their claim against the defen-dant, Thomas Anker, an employee of Armtrac Security Services acting as the agent of the leasehold owners of a private car park in Truro, for compensation and damages for malicious falsehood and tortious interference with the plaintiffs' car, and (ii) allowing the defendant's counterclaim for £660 in compensation for landowner found another's until payment of the reasonable

### LAW REPORT

7 December 1995

the cost of wheelclamps and property causing damage on his land, he could seize it and padlocks removed hy Mr Arthur, and for an assault by withhold it from its owner un-Mrs Arthur.
The Arthurs' car had been til adequate compensation had been paid. Although aimed at wheelclamped by Mr Anker af-ter Mr Arthur had parked it in could be adapted to apply to a car causing damage by using up space where it was at a the private car park without authority, despite having seen

> Second was the defence of . consent or "volenti non fit in-juria", Mr Arthur having parked the car in full knowledge of the possible consequences and therefore being taken to have consented to them.

John G. Cooper (Natasha Arthur, Truro) for the plaintiffs; Timothy Ry-der (Naider & Son, Truro) for the defendants; Stephen Richards (Treasury Solicitor) es amicus curise.

Sir Thomas Bingham MR, dealing first with the defence of consent, said that by voluntarily accepting the risk of being clamped Mr Arthur had consented not only to the otherwise tortious act of clamping hut also to the otherwise tortious act of detaining the car

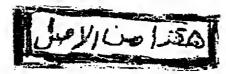
cost of the clamping and

unclamping. However, such implied acceptance would not extend to an unreasonable or exorbitant charge for releasing the car, nor would it apply where the warning was not of clamping but of conduct by or on behalf of the landowner which would damage the car. Nor might the clamper justify detention of the car or delay in its release after the owner had indicated a willingness to comply with the condition for release, and there must be means for the owner to communicate his offer of

As for the remedy of distress damage feasant, his Lordship doubted if it could apply. Although it had survived and was capable of applying to inanimate objects, its application to a case such as this was plainly remote from anything ever contemplated by those who developed the remedy. Lord Justice Neill con-

curred. Lord Justice Hirst also concurred except on the remedy of distress damage feasant, on which issue he would uphold the judge's decision.

Paul Magrath, Barrister



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BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 20

# Forte's defence bill could exceed £35m

MARKET SUMMARY -0.0 3680.40 2954.20

\$ (London) 1.5403 -0.02c 1.5644 £ (London) 0.6492 0.01 0.63 \$ (N York)\$ 1.5425 -0.10c 1.5660 £ (N York)\$ 0.6483 +0.04 0.638 DM (London) 2.2229 1.04pf 2.4576 DM (London) 1.4432 0.69pf 1.57 How York exchange rates and GR Breat January at 1439 hours

### INBRIEF **Payout for former Post Office chief**

Bill Cockburn, the former chief executive of the Post Office who left to join WH Smith last month, has received a lump sum of £285,542 from his previous employer. In a response to a Labour Party question in the House of Commons, the Government said the payment was allowed under the Post Office pensioo rules and was equivalent to three times his annual pensioo.

### Vymura issues warning

Vymura, the wallpaper manufacturer, warned that second-half profits will be "substantially below" last year's level. Trading has been hit by a combination of flat sales, difficulties in recovering raw material price increases and higher support costs, the company said. However, subject to the trading outlonk in spring 1996, it remains Vymura's intention to maintain the level of final dividend for the full year 1995.

### Littlewoods fight to continue

Barry Dale, the former Littlewoods chief executive who has launched a £1.2bo offer for the company, has vowed to fight on if he loses a crucial vote on his proposals today. The Moores family, which controls the company, is due to vote on his offer at an emergeocy meeting at the company's head office in Liverpool. Although Mr Dale has some support he is expected to lose the vote that would allow him access to the company's books. A rival £1.1bn offer from N Brown, the mail order group, and Iceland, the frozen food retailer, is also expected to be discussed.

### **Boost for Kingfisher**

Sales at Kingfisher, the B&Q and Superdrug group, have risen by 4.8 per cent on a like-for-like hasis in the three months to October. Woolworths sales have recovered after a poor August. Sales at Comet were up by 3 per cent but B&Q is finding the market tougher. Its sales were flat as a result of the sluggish housing market. Superdrug is performing better as it continues to move more towards health and beauty products.

### Hard marketing lifts car sales

New UK car sales leapt by 12.77 per cent to 143,055 vehicles last month – but manufacturers said the increase reflected aggressive marketing rather than a sudden return of the "feel-good" factor. It was the second month running to show an increase, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

### No fresh runway plans from BAA

BAA, the airports operator, has no plans or proposals for another runway in south-east England within its present planning horizons, Michael Maine, technical director, told MPs on the Select Transport Committee yesterday. He told the meeting that the proposed terminal 5 at Heathrow would be "the correct answer to the UK airport capacity question". Mr Maine also encouraged the Government to encourage greater use of other UK airports including Luton and Stansted.

### Taylor moves in at Charter

Martin Taylor, the recently retired vice-chairman of Hanson, has been appointed deputy chairman of Charter, the welding sup-plies to mining equipment group. The move follows April's an-oouncement that Sir Michael Edwardes was to step down as chairman of Charter oext year, to be replaced by Jeffrey Herbert, currently chief executive.

### JOHN SHEPHERD

The besieged Forte hotels group is continuing to recruit more advisers, and looks set to run np a defence bill of more than £35m in its struggle to defeat the hostile £3.3bn takeover bid from Granada.

Since Sunday, Forte, headed by Sir Rocco Forte, has enlisted additional help from Roberto Mendoza, vice president of JP Morgan, and Cazenove, the hlue-blood stockbrokers. Makinson Cowell, the investor rela-merchant banker reckoned that tions specialists, was yesterday the merchant hanks and stock-

One leading merchant banker, who requested not to be named, estimated the cost of Forte's army of defenders at a "con-servative" £35m. "That may well rise considerably if Forte remains independent and has to y success fees," he said.

The defence team also includes two other therchant banks, SBC Warburg and Morgan Stanley, the UBS stock-broking firm, and Brunswick, the City public relations firm. The

drafted into the defeoce team. brokers would cost Forte betweeo £25m and £30m, excluding expenses, "Accountants and solicitors would cost at least £2m to £3m. Brunswick £1m, and Makinson Cowell another £500,000." Forte is also having its hotel estate revalued which he estimated would cost around

> Forte declined to comment on how much its defence would cost. If £35m is an accurate figure it equates to about 27 per cent of Forte's taxable profits of £127m in the last full year.
>
> IBCA, the credit rating

wake of the company's plan to split into two should it defeat Granada. The agency said it had placed long and short-term debt ratings of Forte on "rating watch" with negative implica-

There were also widespread rumours that Forte's meeting with institutions in Scotland on Tuesday had oot gone well.
"We've heard that shareholders were unhappy that Forte had not seen them for months... and we also heard that one sharehold-

vesting the proceeds in gilts," said one City dealer.

Forte's shares fell a further 0.5p to 337.5p, while Granada advanced 2p more to 655p. That improved Granada's cash and share terms from 330.8p to 331.3p per Forte share – just 6.2p shy of the current market price. Analysts said that Forte would have to produce a "very strong" defence document to stem the

negative tide. Meanwhile, Forte continues to sell off unwanted businesses.

agency, yesterday expressed er said Forte would be better off The latest to go is Griersons, the coocern about Forte in the selling trophy hotels and in-wine merchant, sold to Matthew Clark for £23m.

Granada chief executive Gerry Robinson pointed out that Griersons made only £1m on turnover £76m, compared with the £5.3m Clark made from its Freetraders operation on £121m oess you have to get operating profits up, otherwise you're self-

ing on the cheap."

Mr Robinson also promised to retain Forte shareholders' perks. Gold Card hotel discounts would be honoured.

# Crunch day as Eggar steps into gas row

MARY FAGAN Industrial Correspondent

The Government will today step into the row hetween British Gas and its potential rivals. It has summoned British Gas to a crunch meeting that will include the industry watchdog, Clare Spottiswoode, following allegations in the industry that the company is dragging its heels over the introduction of domestic competition in April next year. Cedric Brown, chief executive of British Gas, may also attend in an attempt to resolve the issue

Competitors to British Gas, including North Sea producers and electricity companies, be-lieve that British Gas is deliberately trying to delay competitioo oo the grounds that the arrangements occided to cope with multiple suppliers will not be in place. The meeting has been called



Tim Eggar: Determined to increase competition.

by Tim Eggar, the minister for energy and industry, who is de-termined that competition for up to 500,000 households in the South-west of England will be available from 1 April. It will then be extended to two millioo homes in 1997; with the market open nationally in 1998.

Ms Spottiswoode, who is believed to be increasingly angered by British Gas's attitude, is also likely to oppose vociferously any slippage in the timetable.
According to one industry
source: "When politics and
companies get mixed, who
knows what the outcome will be. This is likely to be a very important meeting."

The row primarily involves the British Gas pipeline subsidiary, Transco, whose relationship with the situation worse.

the regulator has become strained in recent months. But Richard Giordano, British Gas chairman, has also warned that the Government's schedule for the introduction in April of competitioo in the domestic gas market leaves little time for a proper testing period and could "create significant risks". British Gas hlames any reti-

cence on government delays with the legislation allowing for competition and the establishmeot of a oetwork code which embodies the rules and regulations of the competitive market, A spokesman for Transco said: We are being pragmatic. We want more time to sort out any potential problems." Rivals say British Gas will do anything it can to keep them out of the market place.

The latest débâcle coincides with the announcement yes-terday by Total Gas Marketing that it will enter the domestic market oext year, undercutting British Gas by an average of up to 16 per cent. Recently Amerada Hess said it would offer savings over British Gas of about 15 per cent.

Total said people paying promptly and by direct debit would see additional savings and ceot. The company is wooing potential customers with an initial £10 payment in the form of a Marks & Speccer voucher.

There are fears in British Gas that many companies will pour into the domestic market, creaming off the most lucrative customers. British Gas's share of the industrial and commercial market - where competition is already allowed - has plummeted to about 35 per cent.
The spectre of domestic com-

petition is just one of the problems that have plunged British Gas into turmoil over the last year. The company is struggling to recover from a series of public relations fiascos and boardroom upheavais. It also faces severe difficulties over costly long-term "take or pay" con-tracts with North Sea producers, which force the company to buy more gas than it can sell. The availability of cheap spot market gas allows rivals to undercut the company and there have been warnings that domestic competition will make



Keeping a grip: Steve Willoox, chief executive (right), and Hamish McPhie, finance director, of Avon Rubber, the automotive components to tyres group that has motored ahead despite some weakening in its markets. Pre-tax profits jumped from £13.2m to £16.2m in the year to September. The dividend rises 7 per cent to 17.7p.

Photograph: John Lawrence

# Six sink in Footsie shake-up

TOM STEVENSON Deputy City Editor

Six companies learned yesterday that they have lost their cov-eted status in the FT-SE 100 in the biggest shake-up for two years in the index of Britain's Stock Exchange's strict formuthat, overall, the minimum saving for households will be 10 per la for inclusion slip out of the last only the 1 footsie on 18 December when led company. they will face a wave of selling pressure from tracker funds to reflect exactly movements in

the various indices. The number of changes in the latest quarterly review was boosted by the Exchange's de-transmissioo business. Other

lowest-ranked company in the index, to accommodate the inclusion of the National Grid, which will be a FT-SE 100 company from the start of dealings on Monday. Inchcape's departure, after four years in the inleading shares. Victims of the dex, follows a disastrous share falls out, as does De La Rue, Stock Exchange's strict formuas only the 130th-largest quot- week after it warned that high-

of the Grid has been the rewhose portfolios are designed moval of both Loodon and Midlands Electricity, whose market values have been hit by the transfer to shareholders of

Sears, one of the original constitueots when Footsie was de-vised in 1984. Despite the best efforts of the chief executive, Liam Stroog, Sears has struggled with a disparate array of retail hrands. Arjo Wiggins also expectations.

Winners from this quarter's switch include Pilkington, which has beoefited from oew manconstruction and automotive slipping below 110th place aucycles, Smiths Industries, Argos tomatically fall out.

cision to remove Incheape, the companies to drop out include and Foreign & Colonial In-lowest-ranked company in the Sears, one of the original convestment Trust. Burton, which rejoins the in-

dex after an absence of five years, has been guided back to the top flight by its American chief executive, John Hoerner. who took over in 1992. He has moved the group away from a culture of permanent discounts.

Under Stock Exchange rules er-than-forecast results in the all quoted companies are A side effect of the flotation past had fuelled unrealistic ranked by market capitalisation once a quarter. Any company whose share price rise has placed it higher than 90th in the league table automatically gains agement and an upturn in its entrance to Footsie. Companies

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# Liquidators want Leeson in court

The liquidators of Nick Leeson's former employer, Baring Futures Singapore, said yesterday they want the disgraced trader to appear in court to dis-

close all his assets. A partner in the liquidators, Price Waterhouse, said thefirm's solicitors. Rajah and Tann, wrote on Tuesday to Tanah Marah, where Nick Leeson is being held, for permission to serve him a court order.

BFS on behalf of the Singapore anthorities and produced a wide-ranging report on the affair. It was appointed liquidator two weeks ago.

The order is similar to one served on Leeson's British lawyer, Stephen Pollard, on Saturday, shortly after the court case in which the former trader was sentenced to six and a half years in prison on two charges of cheating linked to the failure of Barings. The order requires Mr Pollad to produce all Price Waterhouse originally documents linked to the bank's investigated the collapse of collapse including those which

tracts and arrangements eotered into by either of the Lecsons or their agents for the sale of any book, television,

lated to the fall of Barings.

Mr Pollard was not available. for comment, although sources close to the Leeson camp point out that the former trader has lowed to see the profits from any film or book deal.

Leeson is believed to have sentence since he pleaded guilty signed a contract for a book, on a reduced count of charges.

provide evidence of assets, con- which is being co-written by a ghost writer and which was sold at the recent Frankfurt

There is also talk about a newspaper or screen rights re- Hollywood movie about the affair, although Leeson's Singapore lawyer, Joho Koh, said earlier this week that oo deal had yet been signed.

Leeson's lawyers have until been advised all along by his le- the beginning of next week to gal team that he will not be al- decide on whether to appeal against sentence. Family and friends had expected a lighter

# Promising statement lifts Rank

DAVID HELLIER

Shares in Rank Organisation were up sharply after the com-pany released an upbeat trading statement. The company said sales in continuing operations were up more than 5 per cent and operating profit was 11 per cent higher in the first 10 months compared with a year

Paul Slattery at Kleinwort Benson said the statement was mainly in line with his expectations, adding that the impact of the National Lottery on the company's recreation division. which saw profits fall by around a quarter, has been brought un-

der control. His year-end profits forecast remained at £391m. Julian Easthope at UBS said his pre-tax profit forecast is already at "the top end of the range" at £410m.
The shares closed the day np

buoyed by weak industrial production figures.

The difference in the auction

PAUL WALLACE

Economics Editor

The Bank of England received

another sethack in its auction

programme as bidders put in

aggressively low offers and the

total volume of hids barely exceeded the £3bn of gilts being sold. However, the gilts market later recovered on hopes of an

early cut in interest rates,

between the average yield and the highest yield accepted, the "tail", was the largest on record. The average accepted yield was 7.45 per cent, the highest 7.56 per cent, a "tail" of 11 basis "The Bank had to mop up a lot of silly hids," said Nigel

Richardson, head of bond re-

search at Yamaichi Internation-

al. The Bank put a brave face on

for Bank of England persal of bids was not surprising from the latest industrial progiven the recent market rally.

Gilt auction setback

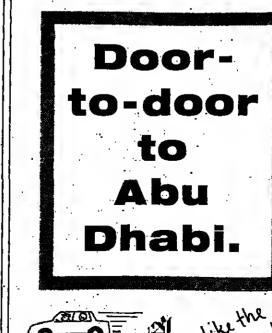
A further indication of the difficulty faced by the Bank in the auction was that it received bids only one-tenth higher than the £3be being sold. At the last auction in October the "cover" of bids was almost double the value of the stock on offer. Immediately after the auction

result, gilt prices slumped and a: one point market-makers were said to be facing losses of £100m. However, hopes of rate cuts following further evidence of a weak economy, together with a surge in US treasuries, led the market into a sharp rally and the three-quarters of a point on the day. The short sterling future, which indicates interest rate expectations, ended trading implying a cut in base rates of more than half a point by March.

duction figures. These showed a monthly fall in October of almost 1 per cent, although almost all of that could be attributed to the effects of weather. Temperatures at a 30-year high for October depressed gas extraction and the output of electricity and gas

Manufacturing output edged up by 0.2 per cent, in line with market expectations. The Central Statistical Office said the underlying annual growth rate of manufacturing remained at half a per cent. Output fell in food, drink and tobacco, chemicals, and textiles and clothing, but March long gilt future ended up rose in engineering and coke and nuclear fuels. According to Simon Briscoe,

UK economist at Nikko Europe, the figures were "a pretty sharp reminder of weakness in the economy and a oail in the The trisper for renewed hopes coffin for the growth pause the reverse, saying that the dis- of early interest rate cuts came theory".







This is the nightmare scenario that

and their insurance brokers have been predicting for much of this decade?

accountants

# Binder judgment underlines case for reform

The accountancy profession will hardly welcome it, but yesterday's £65m judgWelcome it, but yesterday's £65m judgKPMG, Britain's largest audit firm. Indeed. the distant vantage point of Benin, will be for such sleight of hand—stepping up to the ceeded in wrong-footing most competitors.

There is still some residual doubt about ment against Binder Hamlyn is the best piece of evidence it can point to in its campaign or a change in the law relating to auditors' liability. Here is the nightmare scenario that accountants and their insurance brokers have been predicting for much of this decade. Because of a shortfall in the firm's professional indemnity insurance cover - caused by insurers' unwillingness to take on such big risks in the face of mounting litigation - more than 100 partners face having to meet £34m of the claim. The judgment is being appealed, but if a year from now it stands, some prominent accountants might be made personally

Well, abmost. This case is complicated by the fact that much of Binder Hamlyn has, since late 1994, been part of the immensely successful US-based Arthur Andersen. Having acquired it because of its UK audit business, Arthur Andersen is unlikely to want to cast the Binder people off. But nor, as rival firms were quick to point out, is it likely to dip into its pocket to bail them out. That would, in the words of one partner at another practice, be a "more than generous gesture". Ultimately, ADT would probably be better off agreeing a deal under which the money is paid off over time, rather than forcing the partners out of homes and callings.

The wider implications are comestate.

The wider implications are somewhat easier to assess. Irrespective of the final result, the case can only accelerate the rush

the signs are that the coming weeks, if not days, will see many other leading firms delivering their responses to KPMG's attempt to protect itself from huge negligence suits in

There are still doubts over how KPMG's decision to incorporate only its audit arm will work. If Binder had been totally incorporated at the time of the deal that landed it in court, the liability would have been limited to the firm's assets, and the individual partner responsible, rather than scores of others with no connection to the transaction. Even this may be no more than a partial solution, however.

With this case fresh in its mind, the profession will be hoping that the Law Com-mission, which is studying options for reform of the law of joint and several liability, might provide a more elegant way out of the probiem. It has long pressed changes to a prin-ciple under which its members can find themselves hearing the whole cost of a cornorate disaster.

Cold comfort from Chancellor Kohl

The only good thing from Jacques Chirac's point of view about his meeting today with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has to be its the venue. The French presiBaden. Perhaps a little birching in the sauna before taking the waters, or a flutter at the tables - anything but having to subject himself to Helmul's stern gaze.

Around the time of their last meeting, the Germans had privately begun referring to France as the "patient". It was this sort of deficit-slashing. That was the whole point of talk that finally prompted Mr Chirac to declare, after months of shilly-shallying, that cutting the public deficit was his priority of priorities. Now the priority is being acted upon, and the patient is in high fever. But Mr Chirac is likely to look in vain for any meaningful act of sympathy. He will get, of course, the solemn affirmation of Franco-German solidarity on everything, which in any case is always recycled as a matter of course at these summits.

On substance, however, Mr Kohl can afford to be at his most self-righteous. Despite the burden of unification, equivalent to transferring to the east each year some 5 per cent of GDP, Germany has succceded, through the recession of 1993 and 1994, in driving down its public deficit to below the Maastricht criteria level. France and Britain, in more favourable economic conditions, have failed to achieve as much. Kenneth Clarke has just pushed back his deficit reduction timetable by another year, so that Britain should come in under the 3 per cept har in 1997.

the distant vantage point of Benin, will be for such sleight of hand - stepping up to the sorely tempted by the diversions of Baden | mark on EMU is a matter of honour, and mark on EMU is a matter of honour, and the pressure of international market scrutiny is that much greater on France. The biggest problem is that the French economy is crawling along on annualised GDP growth of under 1 per cent. and unemployment is rising again: hardly ideal fundamentals for

the convergence criteria. They were not meant to offer choice, just Teutonic virtue.

### Bass's bigger splash proves a winner

It has taken a long time for the City to come Fround to Sir Ian Prosser's view of the world, but finally he seems to be winning over the sceptics. Over the past year, Bass shares have outperformed the rest of the stock market by around a tenth; support for the stock is growing by leaps and bounds. It was not always thus. When it splashed out more than £1hn on the Holiday Inn hotel chain in 1989, there were cries of horror. Why on earth was a brewer expanding into hotels, was the question on everyone's lips

Bass's approach to the beer orders - to sell most of its tied estate as rapidly as possible - drew an equally hostile response. Both strategies are in the process of being vindicated. Holiday Inn is producing all the right numbers while the company's swift and ceeded in wrong-footing most competitors.

There is still some residual doubt about whether such a powerful brewer should be expanding into the leisure industry as aggressively as Bass is, but even this is beginning to go. The main strands of the leisure market are rapidly converging. Sir lan's vision of a company that tries to tap profitably into all aspects of discretionary spending and personal leisure time, be that pubs, bingo halls, betting shops or fitness centres, must be the right one. Bass is proving to he a master of extracting the last penny of loose change from customers' pockets. Selective bolt-on acquisitions – such as the recent purchase of the Harvester pub chain - have enriched the formula.

The ability to throw £10m of capital spending a week at existing husinesses underlines the company's financial strength. The result of the high capital spending in the year to 30 September was an 11.3 per cent leap in taxable profits to £599m, despite the effects of the lottery. Analysis have pencilled in £650m for next year. With gearing at just 23 per cent. Bass plainly has scope for a hig acquisition. Anything is possible, but the current rumour, Ladbroke, seems unlikely. Bass simply does not need hotel property assets like Ladbroke's. Much more logical would be Carlsberg Tetley, but the rationalisation of the heer industry involved might be too much even for this Government's relaxed approach to mergers policy.

# NFC admits to failures as group profits collapse

TOM STEVENSON

acknowledging that one of the set by recruitment is main challenges facing the new of the business. was a complete change of culture. The City fretted about the
pace of reform, downgrading restore its previous fortunes profits forecasts by £10m to but fell foul of an old guard un-£95m and knocking 10p, or 7 willing to carry through his

more than halved since the be- regime's mismanagement but ginning of last year; further attention is focused on how tarnishing the employee co-operative dream that began form the company. with a workers' buyout from the government in 1982 and brought the company to the stock market three years later. After a honeymoon period in the early 1980s, falling profits and bitter boardroom rows have proven that NFC is just auother company operating in cut-throat markets.

Figures for the 12 months to September, already struggling under tighter operating margins, were scarred by a £35m exceptional provision to cover overhead reductions, loss-making sses and the write-off of

Mr Murphy replaced Peter per cent, off the company's radical recommendations. Yesterday's figures were presented At 139p, the shares have as the result of the previous

He now runs a business that has in effect severed all links with the old ideal of a shareowning co-operative. In October employee shareholders lost the double voting rights they had enjoyed since the flotation of the former National Freight Corporation.
The extra voting powers, de-

signed to protect employees. were lost after their shareholding dipped below 10 per cent. At privatisation NFC workers and their families owned more than 80 per cent

NFC ate humble pie in the City a fruitless six months looking for the manufacture of the group's potential had failed to gone since the restructuring because distributions and gan although these had been actually used during that one of the manufacture of the restructuring the restructuring the manufacture of the restructuring the restructure of ings per share slid from 11.2p to 2p, failing to cover the main

tained dividend of 7.1p.
Exel Logistics, the core UK third-party distribution arm. which accounts for almost half group sales, saw a 9 per cent slide in profits as new business wins from Milk Marque, British Steel and Thorn EMI failed to make up for tighter margins and the impact of a considerable management upheaval. The division had been broken up into 12 separately accountable and more manageable units respousible for supplying differ-

Overseas, NFC's loss-making European operations fell deeper into the red, losing £10.1m compared with 1994's £4.8m deficit. In North America, profits halved to £14.7m as renewed husiness was struck at less attractive margins and the weak US housing market held back the moving services operation. The small rest-of-theworld husiness was flat

### Beat it: Coup shifts the power centre of beleaguered music business back to Japan



Flat spin: Michael Schulhof (left) with Michael Jackson at the signing agreement last month merging Jackson's Beatles' songs copyright with Sony's music catalogue

# Resignation puts Sony's US arm in doubt

DAVID USBDRNE New York

The fate of Sony Corporation's struggling music and film studio interests in the US was up in the air yesterday after the sudden resignation of the head of its American operations for the past six years. Michael Schulhof.

Mr Schulhof, who engineered Sony's move into the entertainment industry at the end of the Eighties, was ousted from his position as president and chief executive of the Sony Corporation of America late on Tuesday.

The removal of Mr Schulhof in effect shifts the power centre in Sony's US subsidiaries back from America to Sony headquarters in Japan. No successor has been named and Mr Schulhof's responsibilities will pass to management in Tokyo, led by Sony's new president. Nobuyuki Idei.

On Wall Street, meanwhile. speculation was rising that Sony may be tempted to find new investors for its film and music units or even unload them entirely. "It's more likely now that they'll spin off the movie and music operations," suggested Dennis McAlpine of osephthal Lyon & Ross.

Mr Schulhof led Sony into the entertainment business, first

with the acquisition in 1988 of CBS Records for \$2bn and, a year later, with the \$5bn purchase of Columbia Pictures Entertainment Inc.

Analysts calculate that today the combined entertainment interests may be worth no more than \$8bn, not much more than the company's original invest-

Nor has Sony's foray into Hollywood been happy. Last year the company revealed that it had accumulated \$3.26n in write-offs and losses in its movie studios. Although the film division has since picked up a lit-tle, it has had no big hits. Sony Music has also faced hard times recently, its share of the US market dipping to 13.6 per cent from 17.3 per cent in 1993. Most recently, it was hit by the disappointing performance of Michael Jackson's latest album,

HIStory. Mr Schulhof, 53, said he was leaving Sony because he wanted to "explore a new enterpreneurial role outside of the corporation and I am eager to get on with it".

Any attempt by Sony to draw in its horns in Hollywood would represent another chapter in the humbling of Japanese corporations faced with disappointing American investments.

# Carlton lays plans for cable

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Carlton Communications is planning a big push into cable and satellite broadcasting and overseas television. Already the largest supplier to the IIV network, the company intends to take advantage of new government rules on media ownership that allow it to own 100 per cent of cable and satellite channels up from 20 per cent before. Michael Green, chairman

said yesterday: "The multiplic ity of entertainment channels that will be available to viewers with the expansion of broadcast, satellite and cable systems means that demand for programme material will grow substantially. We intend to be a major owner and supplier of copyright television material." A spokesman confirmed that the company had been talking

to European media groups about possible joint ventures, but refused to rule out doing a deal with Rupert Murdoch's empire, which effectively controls a large part of UK satellite broadcasting.
As well as satellite, "there are

well over 1 million cable subscribers and you have got the prospect of digital terrestrial TV, the spokesman said.
There are a range of options and we don't want to be tied to any particular one thing."

The company's ownership of

the franchises for London weekday television and Central allowed it to raise pre-tax profits 30 per cent to £247m in the year to September. Stripping out a 17m loss on disposals, profits rose 39 per cent. The dividend goes up 14 per cent to 23.6p. Britannia Secur Investment Column, page 26 February 1990.

# Bass keep City guessing on acquisition

JOHN SHEPHERD

Bass yesterday kept the City guessing about whether it was on the verge on making a large acquisition. The giant hotels and drinks group declined to com-ment on the strong speculation over the past week that it was considering a bid for Ladbroke, the betting shops and Hilton

hotels company. Sir Ian Prosser, chairman and chief executive, did hint, how-ever, that Bass would be prepared to make a big bid if the right opportunity arose. An-nouncing better-than expected

full-year profits of £599m, he said there would more than likely be further consolidation in the brewing industry in the wake of Scottish & Newcastle's recent acquisition of Courage.

Analysts interpreted that

comment as a sign that Bass was interested in buying Carlsberg
Tetley, the third-largest brewer,
which is jointly owned by Allied
Domecq and Carlsberg of

A resurfacing of rumours that Sir Christopher Hogg is in line to succeed Michael Jackaman as chairman of Allied Domecq also fuelled specula-

ally be broken up, starting with 695p. the sale of Carlsberg Telley. Sir lan again declined to

comment on this particular piece of speculation, but openly admitted that Bass was losing a small amount of market share in addition to being toppled from pole position in the brewing league by S&N. However, he stressed that

size was not everything and it was more important to grow strategically and through prod-uct imnovation. The City imhibed that message fully yesterday and marked the

tion that Allied would eventu- shares up 26p to a high of

Analysis upgraded forecasts on the news that Bass had in-creased pre-tax profits by 11.3 per cent to £599m in the year to 30 September and raised the dividend total by 7.6 per cent to 22.7p. The City expects Bass to make profits of about £650m in the current year and £710m in

The main driver behind the profits growth was the fran-chised Holiday Inns husiness, which operates 2,080 hotels with 370,000 rooms. Operating profits from the hotels climbed

8.6 per cent to £164m. A further 487 hotels will be added to the chain in the next 18 months. most of them in the US.

The company's brewing and pub operations also had a good year, with operating profits from pubs up from £220m to £240m, and hrewing profits im-proved from £140m to £144m.

# The shock decision on Binder Hamlyn will prompt a rush for limited liability, writes John Willcock

The shock decision by the High Court yesterday to award record damages and interest of £105m against Binder Hamlyn will transform the move by accountancy firms from partner-ship to limited liability into a stampede, industry sources said

Although there have been claims for damages running into the hundreds of millions of pounds against accountancy firms since the UK went into recession in 1989, this is by far thehighest award by a court. Other firms are particularly

alarmed by the circumstances of the case against Binder, and the way it could personally bankrupt up to 150 present and past part-ners. The award for £65m was swollen to £105m by interests, and costs, but Binder's professional indemnity only stretched to £71m, creating a £34m short-

fall for the partners. Binder is appealing against the decision.

The case revolved around the purchase by ADT, Michael Ashcroft's car auctions and electronic alarms group, of Britannia Securities Group in

Court decision to spark stampede of accountants Binder audited Britannia, and agreed takeover.

signed off its audit in October 1989 with Britannia's net assets listed as £36.5m. The firm had no further contact with Britannia until 5 January 1990 when it asked a Binder partner to attend a meeting with ADT, which wanted to buy the company.

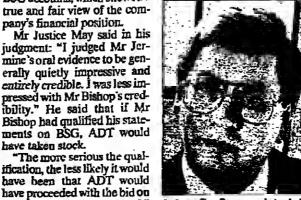
The High Court case hinged on ADT's claim that Martyn Bishop, audit partner of Binder, assumed responsibility to it at the January 1990 meeting by restating that the 1989 accounts, which his firm had audited, showed a true and fair view of the state of affairs of BSG.

ADT claimed that the accounts did not give a true pic-ture, that this was caused by Binder's negligence and it had suffered loss. On Binder's information; crucial meeting Mr Bishop had told him that he had no reason to change his mind over the BSG accounts, which showed a true and fair view of the com-

pany's financial position. Mr Justice May said in his judgment: "I judged Mr Jermme soral evidence to be generally quietly impressive and entirely credible. I was less impressed with Mr Bishop's credibility." He said that if Mr Bishop had qualified his state-

have taken stock. The more serious the qualification, the less likely it would have been that ADT would have proceeded with the bid on the terms then contemplated." ADT believed that a premium over the BSG share price of 25

stood by the accounts and An ADT director, John Jer- thereby assumed responsibility mine, told the court that at the to ADT for the professional competence with which they had been prepared and I have held that ADT relied on what



Ashcroft: Case related to The judge went on: "I have sale of his car auction firm

But the hot summer and the

effect of the National Lottery hit the leisure operations. Gala hingo clubs saw profits dip £4m to £36m, and Coral betting shops returned a static £17m. Comment, page 25 Drinking trends, page 4

Mr Bishop said. Insofar as Binder's admit

that they were in certain re-

spects negligent in the auditing and certification of those ac-

counts, it follows that they were in breach of the responsibility

which I have held that they

The decision has alarmed

other accountancy firms. Al-

though KPMG has already

sought to escape crippling pro-

fessional indemnity insurance

rates by switching from part-

nership to limited liability sta-

tus, other are now under severe

The managing partner of one

leading accountancy firm said

that the ADT award would in-

evitably spur the move towards

incorporation. "I don't think it's

a sea change - hut it's certain-ly a high crested wave."

to have escaped any liability for the award. Former Binder part-

ners who wound up at Stoy Hayward and Grant Thornton may

not be so lucky. There was

considerable confusion on this

point last night.

Arthur Andersen itself looks

pressure to follow suit.

assumed.

See pages 16-17, 19-23 section two

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### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

# Carlton finds winning formula

Carlton Communications was little more than a stock market tipsheet publisher called Fleet Street Letter when Michael Green arrived in the 1980s. The transformation since then has been remarkable. First Mr Green turned the company into one of the wonder stocks of the subsequent stock market boom and, more impressively. has since created one of the most respected media stocks of the 1990s.

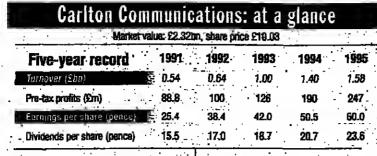
The turning point was winning the London weekday ITV franchise from Thames in 1993, which was quickly followed by the £758m agreed takeover of Central, the Midlands broadcaster. Together these have created the network's leading supplier of programmes just at the time when television advertising is back in demand.

The result was to raise profits before exceptionals by 39 per cent to £254m in the year to September, before a £7m loss on the sale of two small businesses in the period. Sharebolders share in the spoils, with a dividend raised 14 per cent to 23.6p, after a final of 14.3p.

Carlton bad some residual dowry effect from the acquisition of Central part-way through 1994, which flat-tered the latest figures, but underlying profits are still up 30 per cent. The tim-ing of the Central deal looks excellent. Carlton has had the best year for advertising for many years, raising revenues 9 per cent during the past 12 months, against an ITV market up 7 per cent. The company bas cashed in on the recovery and has also won market share from its arch-rival London Weekend Television in the capital's fe-rociously competitive advertising mar-ket. The combination of both franchises advertising arms in Carlton UK Sales, now commanding 32 per cent of ITV advertising revenue, has obviously been a winning formula.

Profits from the core television operation soared from £71.6m to £123m, a momentum that will clearly be difficult to sustain. Some media buyers are looking forward to continued growth in advertising revenues of around 6 or 7 per cent, but City analysts are more cautious, with James Capel expecting something nearer 5 per cent.

Carlton has a firm base in the UK, making 27 per cent of ITV programmes by value and having already been recommissioned for seven of this year's top 10 drama productions. The idea is to build on that foundation, moving into new areas like cable and satellite at home and new regions, such as recent deals in France and Singapore. So far the picture is mixed. Continued losses at Carlton Home Entertainment and a squeeze on margins hit the videocassette operation, cutting profits by 9 per cent to £60.7m.



Share price

revocably from the early years of the

1980s when transport outsourcing was in its infancy and the likes of NFC could

charge customers what they wanted.

Now, customers are more sophisticated and the market too heavily sup-plied for anything but wafer-thin

margins. As operating profits of £88.8m on sales of £2.2bn confirm, returns are

unappealing. But not everything can be levelled at the state of the market. Sales

are not NFC's problem (they rose 7 per

cent in the year), but getting a decent

return on them and on assets employed

(NFC's chosen measure) is a bigger

challenge, given the fixed nature of the

Obligations stretching out three or

even five years must be met, even if the

terms are unfavourable, which means

the only option open to NFC is to cut

its cloth to match prevailing conditions.

A thousand jobs have gone already

since Mr Murphy's restructuring began

in the summer but many more have

come on board with, for example, the

joint venture distributioo company

with Bass. Keeping the lid oo costs in

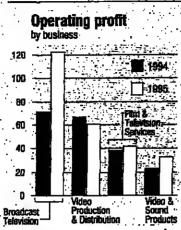
a company employing 37,000 around

commercial enterprise.

the world is the key to transforming this

Profit forecasts were trimmed

contracts that are its stock in trade.



Exel Logistics arm into 12 separately Further growth may be limited by new accountable operations. There is a re-Capel's forecast of £292m group alism about his acknowledgement that trading conditions bave changed ir-

profits this year would put the shares, up 3p at £10.03, on a forward multiple of 14. Reasonable value.

### Costs key to NFC's future

These were appalling figures from NFC, a fact the company admits freely, as new managements are wont to do - it is their last chance to blame someone else. The question facing investors is the extent to which the slump in pretax profits in the year to October is a reflection of the previous regime's incompetence or the fundamental unattractiveness of the markets in which

The figures, showing pre-tax profits tumbling from £105.6m to £38.6m, earnings per share a miserable 2p compared to last time's 11.2p and the full-year dividend badly uncovered at 7.1 p. are largely irrelevant because, predictably, this was a kitchen sink job, including £35m of exceptional provisions to cover the oew chief executive Gerry Murphy's restructuring.

On the face of it he appears to be old paternalistic bebemoth into a lean, doing the right things, including a sensible sub-division of the £1bn-turnover

sharply to about £95m, putting the shares on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 14 at the current 139p, down 10p. If this is a genuine recovery stock that is good value, but in a tough mar-ket the risks are high. Fairly priced.

### Berisford sees return to profit

The re-shaping of Berisford, the former commodities group, has progressed a fair distance since Alan Bowkett took control in 1992, though

it has not been without setbacks. The old commodities husinesses such as British Sugar bave long gone. Other peripheral interests such Eurotrailer, a rentals operation, were disposed of last year for a total of £24m. Still to go are the agribusiness division and some properties that are being smartened np for sale.

Berisford now bas two legs: its Mag-net kitchens and joinery division, which was bought nearly two years ago. and the American catering equip-ment business, Welhilt, which was acquired earlier this year.

Given the problems in the bousing market and the string of dire announcements that have come from other DIY and building materials companies, the market was braced for bad news yesterday. Berisford shares plunged 15 per cent in June following a Magnet-induced profits warning.

In fact, the outcome was better than feared, pushing the shares up 17p to 190p. Pre-tax profits for the year to September were £26.9m after last year' £3.2m loss. It is Berisford's first full-year profit for five years.

Though operating in tough conditions, Magnet is performing creditably. Its profits increased from £6.2m to £10.2m though there has been some sacrifice in the margin over the second half. Costs have been cut via job losses and a factory closure. But £12m bas been invested in a new distribution fleet and refurbished showrooms.

Welbilt turned in £28m in its first period and looks a good deal. Welbilt is hoping to ride on the back of the fastfood expansion world-wide.

With £111m net cash Berisford can easily fund expansion. Targets are likely to be smaller building supplies sses whose products can be sold through Magnet's 200 outlets, At Welbilt the moves are likely to be into related areas such as a commercial dishwasher manufacturer.
With profits of £37m forecast this

year, the shares stand on a forward rating of less than 12. Attractive.

# Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

# Former Barings chief comes out of the closet

So Andrew Tuckey has not been demoted to a broom cupboard in the basement of the new Barings building. That story now appears to have been put about for the benefit of the Bank of

England.
The former deputy chairman of Britain's oldest bank who resigned "as a matter of honour" after failing to spot a £900m loss – is in fact enjoy-ing a spacious office on the executive floor. This in spite of promises from the Bank of England Governor, Eddie George, that he would need

his approval to work again in the City.

"It may look like a large office but he is sharing it with someone," says a Barings man who appears em-barrassed by the presence of the man known as Teflon. Now a consultant to the bank's corporate finance arm Mr Tuckey is still the subject of a Securities and Futures Association investigation.

"You should not be on this floor and you should not be looking in that direction," says the banker. Sorry.

Forte makes a second strategic blunder in its bid to stay

out of Gerry Robinson's Cazeoove to the phalaux of Forte advisers has given the Granada boss another opportunity for espionage. Much like the executive dining rooms at fellow advisers SBC Warburg, the Caz refectories are also supplied by Sutcliffe. Granada's contract

catering division.
Mr Robinsoo might consider the purchase of a waiter's uniform and a silver platter a sensible investment.

The more one thinks about it the more lenient Nick Leeson's sentence looks. Six and Changi jail is a day at the beach compared with the penalties being handed down in the Far East for other forms of financial crime. China, for example, has im-posed the death penalty for fiddling the VAT man.

To the Western mind (Customs & Excise excepted) this might appear a little harsh. But the Singapore press notes that VAT fraud is widespread in China, with 943 cases reported last year at a cost of 24.78bn yuan (a lot of wonga). The death

penalty takes effect from next April and applies to those "making and selling fake VAT invoices". Any tan officials implicated in VAT fraud will also be executed. But that is not an end to the matter. The authorities have also cut VAT export rebates, claiming that it would take China two years to pay

porters in unpaid rebates. "I want to say I am sorry," said Xiang Huaicheng, deputy director of the na-tional taxation administration. "The Ministry of Finance does not have the money.'

the 55bn yuan it owes ex-

Michael Green, the ciga chomping chairman of Carl-ton Communications, is suitably underwhelmed by the news that the independent Television Commission is to give a total of £800,000 back to the 16 ITV companies in the form of licence fee rebates. "It will pay for my children's school fees," sniffs the media mogul, "but it's not going to double the share price."

One wonders which lofty establishment Mr Green's children go to.



And finally - news reaches us from BMW, which is trying to convince the City that its four-year-old electric car (above) is the vehicle to be seen in. Created by the propellor beads at BMW Technik, the maker's design centre,

the El made its debut at the 1991 Frankfurt Motor Show, But with another hike in petrol dnty you never know your luck. So proud are the Germans that they are wheeling it out again to mark BMW Technik's 10th birthday.

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# Stripping off Clarke's bikini

Statistics are like bikinis, Ken-neth Clarke told the Tory Party conference, as he teased them with hints about a tax-cutting Budget: more interesting for what they conceal than what they reveal. Could he bave had his own Budget in mind? The vital statistics that made the headlines were not all that they seemed.

Despite the big increase in the forecast for public borrowing next year, the Chancellor succeeded in portraying his Budget as cautious by claiming he had found the money for his £3bn tax giveaway by matching spending cuts. On both counts Mr Clarke is open to challenge.

Labour's jibe of 7p up, 1p down was too charitable. Compared with the position this year, Mr Clarke hardly cut taxes at all. For one thing, the rise in road fuel and tobacco duties will bring in an extra £1.3bn. This is not altered by the fact that they were pre-announced. in the form of an intention to raise them in real terms by 5 and 3 per cent a year respectively in

the 1993 Budget.
Then there is the increase in the council tax which is implied by the Government's own projections. Tony Travers, an expert in local government at the LSE, expects rises of 8-9 per cent. This is what the Treasury itself seems to be projecting, with council tax revenues set to rise by £700m to £9.9bn next year.

Taking these two sources of revenue into account, Mr Clarke's giveaway of £3bn is reduced to a billion. But it isn't only his claim to have cut taxes that does not stand up to scrutiny. For the Chancellor didn't hold the line on expenditure to anything like the ex-

tent be suggested.
On the surface, the clamp-

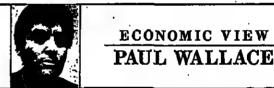
Bass (F)

Caritae Comus (F)

Expre Intl (i)

COMPANY RESULTS

56.8m (25.6m) 4.09m (1,88m) 2.3p (2.7p)



down on spending looks as impressive as the rhetoric. Against a background in which real public spending has risen at an annual rate of almost 2 per cent in the past 15 years, the Treasury's objective for the next financial year certainly appears tough. The control total – which excludes debt interest and cyclically varying social security pay-ments - is set to fall by almost

1 per cent. But delve more deeply into the details and doubts creep in. Included in the control total of £260bn next year is a cut in the housing budget of about half a billion pounds, which comes from the first tranche in the selloff in the Housing Corpora-tion's loan portfolio. The Department of Transport's budget also gains by about a billion pounds from the sale of the rolling stock companies, after a

boost of £800m this year.

These are privatisations that highway and the

dare not speak their names, and in common with most other privatisation proceeds, should be treated as extra revenue rather tban as spending offsets. The much-vaunted successor

to privatisation is the Private Finance Initiative, under which public works are privately financed. Spending under the PFI will jump from £600m this year to £1.9bn next year. The cost to the taxpayer is

postponed until the services derived from PFI contracts become available, but the bill will eventually be presented.

Then there is the lottery to consider. So far the effect of the Government's sparkling new stream of revenue - this time a tax that dares not speak its name - has been simply to flatter the PSBR. Next year, however, the distribution fund begins to shell out money in earnest. Lotteryfinanced expenditure is poised to rise from £300m this year to

£1.4bn in 1996/7.
Last June, the Chancellor redefined the Government's overall expenditure target to exclude spending financed by the lottery. But the Treasury does take account of it in its presentation of public capital spending, which in its absence would fall in real terms by 13 per cent next year rather than the 8 per cent decline shown in the Red Book. As we saw in the clasb between William Waldegrave and Virginia Bottomley before the Budget, the Chief Secretary, for one, sees the

availability of lottery finance as a reason for cutting departmeotal spending.

What bappens when we include these elements in the public speeding totals? The control total, when adjusted to take account of the privatisation proceeds from the bousing corporation loan book and the rolling stock companies, together with planned PFI spending, is flat in real terms rather than the 1 per cent official decline. When adjusted similarly, overall expenditure, which also includes lottery-financed spending, rises by almost balf a per cent rather than falling by the same amount.

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Remember, this is the plan. In the past two years, an inflation under-run bas turned planned austerity into a more lenient regime by allowing planned cash totals to purchase more in the way of goods and services. There is a good chance that this could occur again in

More important, the curbs on public spending bear the hallmarks of a temporary rather than a permanent change. There is a pay policy - again one that dares not speak its name in the form of a freeze on the public sector pay hill. All pay policies have eventually collapsed, and it is unclear why this one should defy that rule. There are further attempts to root out waste, and crude measures such as the imposition of the 12 per cent real cut in running costs over the next three years.

So did Mr Clarke bave his Budget in mind when he raised the subject of hikinis? As he said, when teasing the party faithful about tax cuts: you might say that, I couldn't pos-

### 16.2m (8.28m) 40.9p (13.8p) 17.7p (16.5p) 4.54bn (4.45bn) 599m (552m) 43.4p (40.1p) 22.7p (21.1p) 403m (168m) 26.9m (-3.2m) 15.7p (-2.1p) 3p (0.5p) 56.8m (51.3m) 14.2m (12.3m) 34.2p (29.7p) 13p (11.5p) 189m (161m) 21.0m (18.1m) 9.07p (8.63p) 3.85p (3.68p) 1.58bm (1.40bm) 247m (190m) 65.3p (53.8p) 23.8p (20.65p) 17.1m (14.2m) -5.4m (-6.9m) -8.5p (-11p) nE (nE) 25.5m (21.9m) 4.78m (4.13m) 9.6p (9.2p) 3.45p (1.4p) 37.5m (38.3m) 6.0m (6.7m) 7.5p 10.8p 2.3p (2p) 2.20bn (2.06bn) 38.6m (106m) 2.6p (11.2p) 7.1p (7.1p) 58.9m (49.4m) 3.82m (2.95m) 3.79p (3.24p) 1p (0.9p)

### INBRIEF Margin pressure eases for BTP

BTP has seen falls of up to 20 per cent in raw material costs since September and October, easing the recent pressure on margins. The chemicals group had suffered price increases of as much as 80 per cent earlier in the year. BTP shrugged aside the problems in the first half, lifting pre-tax profits 16 per cent to £21m in the six months to September. The dividend goes up 4.6 per cent to 3.85p.

### Chamberlain Phipps profits slump

Chamberlain Phipps bas seen pre-tax profits slump from £4.46m to £2.81m in the six months to September, but is holding the into £2.81m in the six months to september, but is nothing the in-terim dividend at 2.7p. Europe's leading supplier of footwear and footwear materials said the results were disappointing, but trad-ing had improved since October. The backlog of spring 1996 orders was now comparable to the initial levels of last spring.

3,562.8. 1.4 FF-SE-250

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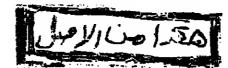
FT-SE 350 1.814.3 - 1.5

SEAQ VOLUME

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VEM

Gilts Index





# market report/shares Christies in takeover frame as investor builds stake

Christies International, the world famous auctioneer, could soon be under the bid shoroff which is now based in

Joseph Lewis, a Bahamasbased investor, has acquired 12 forced to self – losing an estimilion shares in two days, lifting his stake to 25.32 per Mr Lewis could be banking

cent. He declared a 4 million purchase on Tuesday and yesterday said he had picked up another 8 million.

The group's shares rose 4p to 213p, coppers below their year's high.

It is thought Mr Lewis has been stalking Christies for more than a year. His buying first attracted attention in the summer when, through his investment vehicle Abel, he said he had 16 per cent.

The auctioneers are familiar with large overseas share- a leisure group. holders. Japanese interests have featured on the group's share register and Sweden's Wallenberg family once had 7.5 per cent. ADT, the controver-

Bermuda, once had a 24 per cent interest. To cut debts it was

on a Christies trading upsurge, Profits last year fell £2.5m to £16.4m. The market is looking

The stock market had a roller-coaster session swinging from a 17.2-points fall to an 8.6gain and ending 1.4 down at 3,662.8. New York's failure to

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter

of the year

in early trading, ensured a late

rally petered out.
Government stocks offered
a little inspiration, despite a
poor reception to the auction. They scored gains of over £1, encouraged by US Treasuries.
The Footsie upheaval was announced after the market closed. Anticipating its depar-ture. Incheape slumped 19p to 217p but Midlands Electrici-

ty, helped along by its proposed special dividend and share split, took its removal calmly,

hold the 5,200 level, touched ment house, and NatWest Securities backing the shares.
NatWest was also keen on
Shell, up 5.5p to 820.5p.
BT continued to decline,
worried by the proposed Oftel

price curbs and increasing competition. The shares fell 6p to 352p, lowest for three years. Bass jumped 26p to 695p following its results; Ladbroke, despite the failure of the rumoured Bass bid to materialise, gained 2.5p to 160p. Rank Oreanisation's encouraging trad-

16p to 425p.

Berisford gained 17p to 190p following its profits re-covery, but NFC lost 10p to 139p after its profit collapse. requirements, is due to make its AIM debut today and some suggest another heady perfor-

ing statement lifted the shares

a profits warning.
Williams Holdings gained
7p to 321p with SBC Warburg moving from hold to buy. Standard Chartered fell 16p to 588p (after 580.5p) as sto-

culated that it planned to close its money market and derivatives operations. Megalomedia, the ocw Saatehi vehicle, continued its heady progress, gaining a further 11p at 94p. The shares

were relisted on AIM on Tues-Another AIM newcomer had a spectacular start. Flomeries, a software group, was placed at 130p and closed at 205p. Profits of around £400,000 are forecast for this year against £406,700. Pet City, with 35 superstores selling pet

group, slumped 35p to 104p on at 300p and an opening price of more than 350p is expected. T&N was actively traded ahead of an expected US judg-

ment over asbestos claims. The shares shaded to 120p. Cluff Resources, involved in bid talks, had another eventful ries, subsequently denied, cursession, jumping 14p to 92p with stories going the rounds a deal had been agreed. The

shares have become a speculators' delight. expected shortly on Chapare
Recently they fell back The shares are 17.25p. They sharply as rumours the talks have touched 18.5p and been had been abandooed went the as low as 12.75p.

rounds. Newcomer Wilmingtoo. Robert H Lowe, a once part of the Maxwell empire, made an impressive start, closing at 61p against the 50p

Psion, the hand-held computer group, continued to suf-fer from the loss of NatWest Securities as one of its two market-makers. The shares turn-

seeking oil and gas in Bolivia. is said to have lined op ao impressive partner for its Ixiamas development. One oame in the frame is the US oil group Murphy. The AIMtraded company has already linked with BHP, the Australian giant, for its other Bolivian venture, the Chapare hlock. A progress report, likely to be encouraging, is

packaging, printing and sportswear group rescued by David Sebire, is acquiring Majoca, a corrugated paper husiness, for £2.2m in sbares and a further payment of up to £2m. It is Lowe's first significant deal since it was restructured last year. The shares rose 2p to 17p.

| Section | Policy |

for £20m this year and more

than £25m next. But the speed of his buildup is more likely to herald a more predatory interest. A fine art collector and racehorse breeder he is said to speculate in the curreocy markets. He is not noted as a corpo-

rate player, although he has been involved with quoted London companies, including

gaining 18p to 983p.

British Petroleum followed the Government's share sale with a 7p gain to 524p with Smith Barney, the US invest-

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: xr Ex rights a Ex-dividend a Ex-all u Unlisted Securities Market s Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares.

Source: Firstlet. THE INDEPENDENT INDEX

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The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, pho For assistance, call our helpline 071 873 4375 (9.30am - 5.30pm).

MARKET LEADERS: TOP 20 VOLUMES

24.000 Vocalone 16.000 Lastroke 14.000 Sandays 12,000 Botch Gas 11,000 Rolls Royce 10,000 Seem 10,000 Tesco 7,500 Caration 7,300 British America 7,100 British Steel FT-SE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR 14.00 3652.9 down 11.3 09.00 3663,1 down 1.1 12.00 3650,4 down 13.8

# Samoa travel far for due respect

in England and Scotland are more used to hrickbats than bouquets, they may be pleased to know that in one faraway corner of the rugby world they are held up as paragons of farsighted virtue.

Ever since they were cast adrift by the big unions of the southern hemisphere at the end of the World Cup. the Western Samoans bave been engaged in a battle for their islands' very survival as an international-playing country. Remember, only six months ago Samoa were World Cup quarter-finalists for the second time, which is more than could be said, for example, of Wales.

As it happens - and no thanks to the New Zealand and Australian Rugby Unions - they are winning the battle. and in propaganda terms they could scarcely have had a greater opportunity than the tour of Scotland and England, which will conclude with the Twickenham Test, a 78,000 sell-out, on Saturday week.

It is both poignant and pointed that the Western Samoa team have had to come half-way round the world to state their case, and a charitable view would be that a combination of the distance and the unfriendly weather has had its effect on an indifferent playing record including defeats by Cambridge University, the Midlands and North but lightened by the superb achievement in draw-

On the other band, this would be to patronise the Samoans and, as this is their accusation against their nearest neigh-bours, they are happier to stand

As the rugby union authorities Steve Bale on the island determined to remain part of international rugby union despite being cast adrift by its neighbours

> merits. "All I can do is express the gratitude we feel that we have been given this opportunity and that we are being accorded the full status of a worthy international opponent," Bryan Williams, coach and habitual front man, said.

We would like other unions to give us the same respect but closer to home it's been a very slow process. I bave taken my concerns to the New Zealand Rugby Union but I have to say their attitude is pretty patron-ising, even towards me. The All

'i have taken my concerns to the NZRU but their attitude is pretty patronising'

Blacks have never been to Samoa and neither have Australia, vet both Wales and Scotland have, and the very fact that we are here in England tends to reinforce the contrast in the way we are treated."

As Williams is one of the all-time great All Blacks, a phenomenally gifted wing of Samoan descent who illuminated the Seventies, the unneighbourly negativism bas

or fall on their own considerable and New Zealand unions got into bed with Rupert Murdoch with their £360m television deal announced on the eve of the World Cup final in June his very

worst fears were realised. Williams had warned that to exclude Samoa from the Sanza competition would be a death sentence to the national team. since the leading players would either sell themselves to rugby league or else play rugby union not only in Australia or New Zealand but for Australia or New Zealand, After the World Cup six of the squad who had been in South Africa went to league and one to Japan.

The effect was felt not simply on Williams's squad but on the country itself, since according to the coach's often-repeated aphorism, "rugby to the Samoans is as bread is to butter, as shoes are to feet." Samoans are also profoundly religious people - the touring party holds prayer meetings most evenings and immediately before and after every match - and, without being flippant, you could say their prayers are being answered

As the only defence then available, Williams tried to sign the Samoans up to the rival rugby circus proposed by Murdoch's hroadcasting antagonist, Kerry Packer, and it was only after that pie-in-the-sky had crumbled that the Samoans at last had a piece of good fortune when be bumped into Michael been hard to take. And when Fay, the merchant banker and the South African, Australian yachting buff whose money bad



Bryan Williams, the Western Samoa coach, is thankful for the encouragement received from the home unions

heen behind New Zealand's America's Cup challenges.

"The Packer thing seemed to give us a lifeline when we were desperate and when it fell over some of the players decided they weren't going to wait around any longer. But then I happened to meet Michael at a function and when he said he enjoyed the rugby our team bad

played I told him the problems

"He invited me to see him, we had some discussions and things graduated from there so that we now have a package in place that secures the financial position of our players. It's only a beginning but I'm sure people would agree we deserved a hit of luck." The next problem to solve is

tion and Williams is immersed in establishing an annual Pan-Pacific competition involving the other island countries together with Argentina, America, Canada and Japan. More urgently, he had to put together a radically changed squad to make this tour in Scotland and England.

regular international competi-

For a while there was concern that, whether through lack of finance or of adequate manpower, the Samoans might not make the trip. "There was a point when I was at my wits' end, but once we announced the Fay deal and there was the prospect of this Pan-Pacific tournament the players felt there was a future for Manu Samoa," Williams said.

"The difficulty is that when you lose players as we have you lose vital experience, the proven ability of players to perform in front of big crowds, to be away from home and play in foreign conditions." Saturday will bring them to Gloucester, and for a Samoan there could not be anything much more foreign

Photograph: Peter Jay

# Hart finally appointed New Zealand coach

John Hart, one of the coaches has denied, is worth up to a per- history, including two Tests scrum-half in the late Sixties and who bad-moutbed England during the 1991 World Cup, be-latedly realised a lifetime's ambition yesterday when he was appointed New Zealand coach at the fourth time of applying, writes Steve Bale.

As it was also his 50th birthday, the former Auckland coach had a double cause for celebration, the main one being that this is a professional appoint-

formance-related £86,000 a

"Rest assured it is not the figure that is being touted in the press," Hart said, although he declined to reveal the exact amount. "I guess I'm an adage that if you try, try, try again, you might finally get there." His first task as successor to

Laurie Mains, whom he has this is a professional appointment which, according to re-ment which, according to re-to prepare the All Blacks for the when the provincial side – for ports which the new appointee most arduous year in their whom Hart played 26 times at tense.

each against Australia and Scotland, one against Western Samoa and an extraordinary five against South Africa.

If ever there was a reason not to stand, it was when I saw the itinerary, I guess that's part of the challenge," he said. Among the other contenders was Maurice Trapp, the Englishman wbo succeeded

early Seventies - were in the middle of the greatest period in their history.

Hart previously lost votes to become All Black coach to Alex Wyllie in 1988 and Mains in 1992 and a year ago, though he was a national selector from 1987-91 and was imposed on Wyllie as co-coach during the 1991 World Cup, when the relationship between the two was never better than extremely

There will be 20 teams - four each from France, England and Wales, three each from Ireland and Scotland, and one from Italy. The 20th place will be decided by a play-off between

There are to be four pools of five teams, and each team will play two bome and two away matches. The top team in each pool will progress to the semi-finals. The matches are all to be

### New format agreed for **European Cup**

**CLEM THOMAS** 

The format for next season's European Cup, which has been worrying the Rugby Football Union before they give ap-proval for English clubs to take part, has been settled, according to reports in France.

the second Italian team and the top Romanian side. This is because of the extremely poor showing of Farul Constanta in is at hooker, with Gary French this year's competition, and is coming in in place of Tim Her-African sides will take part in nations until the year 2005. It an attempt to ensure that only hert, who is relegated to the strong teams qualify.

# North are backed into corner

The North have made six lowed by a try from Alan Harris changes to the side which beat before Jean-Marc Aue scored Western Samoa for the Divisional Championship decider against the Midlands at Nottingham on Saturday.

The withdrawal of the fullback Tim Stimpson, wing Jim Naylor and centre Will Greenwood for the England A game against Western Samoa has forced a reshuffle in the backs. Jim Mallinder moves from the wing to replace Stimpson, with Sale's Chris Yates stepping in to make his debut and Austin

Healey moving to the other wing from scrum-half. Sale's Jos Baxendell makes his first senior appearance in place of Greenwood, while David Scully returns to scrumhalf. The only forward change bench.

Swansea hecame the first club to secure a European Cup semi-final place when they nar-rowly defeated the French club Castres 22-10 at St Helen's on Thesday. The Welsh club, needplayed by the end of November, to clear the path for the Five Nations' Championship later in a the interval. Three Aled Williams penalties were fol- age involving the unions of

a fine try for Castres that Cyril . Savy converted - only for Garin Jenkins to score Swansea's second try. Swansea increased their lead

to 22-7 with a fourth Williams penalty and then the replacement lock Guy Jeannard was sent off after being on the field for just two minutes. However, this only served to

motivate the French side and, after Savy kicked a penalty to cut the deficit to 12 points, it needed just a converted try to win the group with seven min-utes remaining. Castres crossed the Swansea line but were called back and the home side just survived in a frantic finish.

Natal, the provincial cham-Transvaal, Northern Transvaal and Western Province will represent South Africa against five nouncement of the agreement, resent South Africa against five teams from New Zealand and

three from Australia. The tournament replaces the Super 10 series and is part of a players. \$550m (£360m) television pack-

South Africa, Australia and New Zealand with Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation.

The 12 teams will play each other once in a round-robin format, with the top four sides then advancing to semi-final matches. The championship will be played in the last weekend in May.

 $\sqrt{2} \cdot \sqrt{2}$ 

FAN

The five New Zealand sides, chosen on the basis of regional representation, will be Canterbury, Otago, Wellington, Auck-land and Waikato. Australia's sides, chosen as the three best provinces, will be New South Wales, Queensland and Australian Capital Territory.

The agreement, signed in June with Murdoch, gives News Corporation exclusive rights to broadcast all representative rugby union, including tour the Rugby Super 12 tournament beginning on 1 March. Along with Natal, the provincial sides

was considered the final blow to amateurism in the game, which was under threat of losing its top

> the International Rugby Board loosened its restrictions on compensation for rugby union

North team v Midlands, Sporting Digest, page 31

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SEE TOMORROW'S PAPER FOR TOKEN 6 AND THE ORDER FORM

# Women's tour welcomes new events

longest-running events.
The Ford Classic has been

part of the circuit since 1982 and this year at Chart Hills in Kent had prize-money of £110,000. However, it has disappeared

from the calendar because of the loss of the motor company's The European women's tour yesterday announced four new tournaments for next season – but also the loss of one of its stam and Liselotte Neumann. The four new events are the

Compaq Open three weeks later in Sweden and the Three Nations Cup in October in Bel-gium. The McDonald's event will be the first tour event played solely for charity, with all pro-ceeds going to the Ronald Mc-Donald Children's Charities.

Deesse Swiss Open in June, the McDonald's WPGA championship in Angust at a Scottish venue yet to be named, the McDonald's WPGA championship in Angust at a Scottish venue yet to be named, the Solheim Cup match against

Highlights of the season include the £500,000 Weetabix Sports and the American chan-

Women's British Open at

the Americans at St Pierre, Chepstow, on 20-22 September. The circuit, which will visit 15 different countries, will also kick off at St Pierre with the Welsh Open on May 2 to 5. All three days of the Solheim Cup will be televised live on both

nel NBC. Tour schedule, Sporting Digest, page 31

### Authoritative voices against boxing

From Mr H C Grant Sir: Mr Willis (letters, 30 Nov) demonstrates quite extraordinary arrogance when he states categorically that anyone who opposes his views on boxing knows nothing of boxing or boxing people". As a neuropathologist for 40 years, I have had something to do with the brains of boxers and, through radio and television appearances, have met professional boxers, some

of whom share my opinion that boxing should be outlawed. Tony van den Bergh, who is also campaigning to prevent London NW3 4XR healthy young men from scram-bling their brains for the purpose Not seeing the of entertaining fans - 99 per cent of whom would never dream of climbing into the ring, used to be an amateur boxer. He was also for more than a decade an Inspector for the British Boxing Board of Control and state quently a boxing commentator both for the BBC and for ITV.

Uefa Cup. Good for Forest, our life it to understand the culogisting of Messrs Hansen and Hill. with that of a director of the

### SPORTS LETTERS

nents of boxing - questions the undoubted valour of boxers nor the dedication demanded of this dangerous discipline. As for the character-building claims — self-discipline and self-control — Mr Willis might reflect that the Krays and the Richardsons were Yours, all skilful boxers.

Finally, to compare the dan-gers of boxing with "coal-mining and the descaling of power stations" is to overlook its one unique requirement which is that, unlike any other "sport", its object is to cause brain damage. Yours faithfully,

wood for the trees

From Mr R E Massie Sir: I have just watched Nottingham Forest manage to qualify for the quarter-finals of the Uefa Cup. Good for Forest, but Forest were their own worst enemies; if they had the slight-National Sporting Club.

National Sporting Club.

Sext idea of how to retain posans ANDREW FORBE

Session and play the ball into the Aberdeen AB2 1PF

opposition's danger area, Lyon would have been frustrated and

dispirited long before the end. As long as TV pundits tell us that this sort of performance is good, English football will con-tinue its downward spiral. RALPH E MASSIE

Colchester, Essex Cloth cap or dishes?

From Mr A Forbes Sir. With future Premier league TV deals being so vast that they will be funded by pay per view selection as captain would imtelevision, the *Independent* is mediately put the Americans

not be able to afford to watch football on TV.
One could wildly predict us

PETER HUGHES
Shepshed, Leics
LE12 9BH going back to the future; a time when people supported and even watched their local club, and hung on every word newspaper match reporters relayed back for Sunday's first edition. Progress? Will anyone sell

me their cloth cap? Yours faithfully, ANDREW FORBES Captain Christy

From Mr P Hughes Sir: To defend the Ryder Cup successfully in 1997 it is imperative the right man is seected to succeed Bernard Gallacher as captain. He needs to be strong and resolute with current knowl-edge of what is going on in the

world of golf.

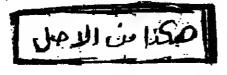
Besides these attributes, he must be a winner in his own right and at the same time retain the gift of being a diplomat and a gentleman.

We have such a person in

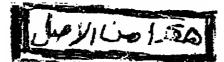
Christy O'Connor Jnr. His right to comment that most on the defensive. people will either not want or Yours hopefully.

28 November

Letters should be marked "For publication" and should con-tain daytime and evening phone numbers. They should be sent to Sports Editor, The Independent, i Canada Square, London E14 5DL. They may be shortened for reasons of space.



The state of the s



# Stakes high in the high street betting contest

would be happening to their own funds. The brewers, owncas of Coral, were widely reported this week to be considering making a take-over bid for Ladbrokes to create a

bookmaking supergiant. Any merger of the two betting organisations would mean a single company in control of almost a third of the nation's shops. It would also lead to twitches among those on racing's shop floor.

Bass has refused to comment on the rumours, and there were some indications yesterday that the City speculation has been wide of the mark. But if a takeover were to go ahead the 1,900 outlets of Ladbrokes and 2930 of Coral would combine, and then, immediately, some of them would drop away. There will be no room for two shops of the same hne in the high streets, and where the two firms relast, uniforms would have price. soon been requested for return.

Even on a general level, the reduction of competition appears no great boon to the reg-

### RESULTS LEICESTER

1.00: 1. PLINDER BAY PA A Fitzgerald) 8-1: 2. Twice A Might 7-2: 3. Kadari 12-1. 9 rat. 5-2 lav Jmjarn Johnny (slapped up). Id. 8. (N Henderson). Tote: 27-90: 52-30, 12-20, £4.80. DF. £19.80. CSP: £33.48. Tricast: £30.342. NR; Our Skrubridge. Tricx £32.30.

1.50: 1. SNEECKY (M W Martin) 16-1; 2. Rafter-J 3-1; 3. Rindafoods 18-1; 3. Vi-aggio 3-1. 5 ran. Evens for Utile Blackfoot 6th), 14-9, (B McMaron), Tota: £13.00; £2.10, £2.40, DF: £63.50, CSF: £56.29. 2.00: 1. ROMANY CREEK (A P McCoy) 2; 2, Glipa Valu 11:9 tay, 3, Museanish 1.6 ran. 2, 7. (G Baiding), Tota: £4.60; 20, £1.50, DF: £2.90, CSF: £8.77.

2.30: 1. CHALLFROER DU LUC (D Bridg-water) 4-5 tay, 2. Flutimessecretary 7-2; 3. Jackson Flint 7-1. 7 ran. 3, nk. (M Pipe). Iotae: 21.60; 53.20, 62.60, DF: 62.40, CSF: 53.51.

3.00: 1. SUPREME LADY (J F Taley) 4-1: 2. Silver Shred 11.4 fav; 3. Strattanore Lodge 10.1, 16 ran, 4. 1. (Mas H Yinght). 70ks: £5.10: £1.80, £2.90, £3.50. Df: £13.60, CSF: £15.86, Inc. £48.40. 3.30: 1. FABR AND FANCY (Richard Guest B-1; 2. Bentena Cove 7-1; 3. Once More For Luck 11-10 to, 9 ran. 1/4, 3/4, Mass, M. Maligoni. Tota: £4.40; £1.40, £1.80, £1.80, £1.10, DF: £25.90, CSF. £37.20, Incest £58.08; Tro; £12.10, Quedgot: £4.40, Place 6; £40.89, Place 5; £10.05, Place 6; £40.89,

SEDGEFIELD 12.50: 1. MARSHAD (A Rochel B-15 fac. Whethfolyocsey 12-1; 3. Roc On The Pier? -1. 15 ran. 6, 2: [) O'Netl); Total: 1. 70: -70, 12:60, 1.1.10. OFF: 1.7.40. CSF: 0.79, NHc Dalochen, Deny's Delega, Tio:

1.20: 1. SOUTH WESTERLY (6 Lee) 8-13 £1.10, £2.40. DF: £2.20. CSF: £5.40. 1.60: 1. RUSSIAN CASTLE (K Jones), 5-1: 2. Aly Datey 4-5 to: 3. Mister Hochberg 20-1. 8 ram, 15, 30. U Wode). Tota: £4.70: £1.10. £1.20. £3.00. DF: £3.10. CSF. £6.78.

22.01: 1. SONSRE MO 12 Stormy 20-1: 2. 2.201: 1. SONSRE MO 12 Stormy 20-1: 2. Flacks of Readen 5-1: 3. Walt You These 10-1.7 rans. 5-4 fou Procipios Run Lunscated rid-ch. 10, 11/c. M/rs S. Bradburne). Fotos: £18.70: £4.10. £3.40, DF: £23.50. CSP: £104.82.

2.50: 1. JUNE BOX BILLY (B Handing) 4-1: 2. Doxford Hut 33-1: 3. Joe Winte 5-2 few. 11 ren. 8, %. (P Montesti), Tota: £4.40; £1.60, £2.60, £2.50. DF: £61.00: CSF: £102.72. Tucast: £349.36. Trio: £161.70.

3.20: 1. BUCKLEY BOYS (T Kent) 11-2; 2. Noelos 9 2: 3. Entry 6-1. 7 ran. 7-4 ter Deset Fighter (5th. 34), 14. A Balley, Totes 6: 790: 62:20. 63:00. DF: 6:15-70. CSF: 6:28.25. Tricast: £138.74. NR: General Chaos.
Quadpot: £8.50 - part won. Pool of £9.60 camed toward to Taunton today.

Place 6: £81.00 Place 6: £85.03. Place 8: £111.58. LINGFIELD

LINGS-IELD

12.40: 1 HALF TONE (D Brigs) 5-1; 2.
Robe Magic 12-1: 2. Keiner 3-1, 3 mm. 11-4 tav Colston-C. N., 14s. (R Flower). Totar 54.60: 63.90. 52-40, 61.00. DF: 547.90.
CSF: £54.53. Tricost: £192309. NR: Tommy Tempest, 760: 228.50.

1.10: 1, CHESTY CRAPPY (P Fescay) 11-4; 2. Sharip long 5-2 tax; 2. Lockon 6-1; 2. ma. 4s. 3, 00 Chepment, 760te £3.10; £1.70.
£1.80. £1.10. DF: £3.30. CSF: £9.44. Inc. sets £32.36. Alter a streamer' (reputy, the placings were unsisted.

ngs were unahaned.

1.40:1. BRUDNANGLLY (Fashley), 6-7 for;
2. Outstryed Welsonse, 14-1; 3. Pat's
Spiendour 33-1.10 ram, 7-1.2 (Fashley), 6-7
Totes 11, 70; £1,10; £6,60, £3,00, Dr. £8,90.
CSF. £10,58. Mozes: £149,58. MP-Enugations.
Formula. Tro: £42.90.

Formula. Tro: £42.90.

2.10: 1. LANDLORD W Newmes) 7-1; 2.

Awesome Power 6-1; 3. Sheide Takey 7-2.

8 van. 13-8 tav Spiline Endge. 1-4; 1. U folien.

7ote: £7 70; £3.10, £2.20, 2.90. DF:

£10.50. CSF: £44.91.

2.40: 1. FAITH ALDRE: 6- Duffeld: 6-1;
2. Routendsone Chann 33-1; 3. Bedyncosy

7-2. 14 van. 11-4 tav Mawlings. Nr. 2. CWain
7ote: £9.00: £3.40, £8.90, £2.40. DF:

£189.10. CSF: £179.42 NR- Fortunisus. Bro:

£275.50 - part won. Pool of £271.66 carried:

forward to Taunton 1.20 today.

3.10: 1. TIME CLASH (S I) Williams) 25-3.10: 1. TIME CLASH (S D Wijams) 25-

1; 2. Gracious Gretch 10-1; 3. Denning Jack 10-1, 7 ren. 5-4 lav Sarchaf (489), 3, 3, 68 Palling), Tote: £20, 70; £3,10, £4,10, DF; £188,80, CSF; £201.63. 2.88.80. CSF: £201.63.
3.40: 1. PRIZEFIGHTER (R Lapurol 11-2;
2. Whatever's Right 9.4 fax; 3. Faths 1111: con. 13/-; 7s. U. E. yeel. Toda: £6.40.
£2.40. £1.20. £5.10. DF: £13.80. CSF:
£19.19. Treast: £127.18. NR. Lebudd. Tito:
£118.90.

£118.90. Indepts: £55.884.20 - part won. Pool of £62.688.17 camed forward to Teumton today. Quadrot: £10.30. Placepts: £711.50 Place 5: £306.06. Place 6: £662.84.

THE INDEPENDENT Horse Racing

Recults 0839 - 111 171 Commentary 0839 - 111 175: Cale charged at 180 per can thing the, The per can as all other than



While Bass announced in Richard Edmondson on how merger in Facing were wondering what talk is worrying a punters' organisation

ular backer and, specifically, the vices (SIS), in which bookmak-National Association for the Protection of Punters believes there are boiling waters ahead. "We've been worried for a while about the dominance of the Big Three in the market, and if that was in effect the Big One, as this new entity would be so much big-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Fortunes Course (Taunton 2.20) NB: Tonys Gift (Nottingham 1.00)

ger than Hills, that would be very serious," Steve High, NAPP's chairman, said yesterday.

"The bookmakers already control the on-course market as much as they can to minimise liabilities, and it could be that soon they would effectively choose their own starting

NAPP's committee meeting next week will also discuss what bad for racing's coffers. While effect any takeover would bave a closure of certain shops

TAUNTON

12.50 Norman's Convinced

1.20 TAKE BY STORM (nap)

1250 CHARD SELLING. 760 Penalty Value £1,760

er, 12-1 Trapeza, 14-1 others. 1994: Lying Eves 3 10 0 C Mauda 2-1 (W G M Turnet) 16 ran

1.50 Show Faith (nb)

GOING: Good.

HYPERSON

Right-hand course, Run-in of 150yds.

Racecourse is south of town on P3170. Transcon railway station is 2 miles away. ADMISSION:

Members 511; Paddock 58.50; Centre of Course S4, CAR PARK: Centre of course Sil;

ELEADUNG TRAINRES: M Pipe — 41 winners from 166 runners gives a success raths of 24.7% and a loss to a 51 kyel stake of 520.96; P J Hobbs — 17 winners, 78 runners, 22.4%, +546.56; R Hodges — 13 winners, 170 runners, 7.64%, 590.99; P Nicholis — 8 winners, 56 runners, 1.8%, 526.50.

ELEADING JOCKETS: M A Piengenald — 16 winners, 118 rides, 15.8%, 55.82; J Osburne — 11 winners, 44 rides, 25%, +55.93; R Damwoody — 11 winners, 104 rides, 10.6%, 557,71; M Richards — 9 winners, 37 rides, 24.3%, +510.76.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Non-

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: New Tribe (12.50) has been sent 140 miles by J White Wendower, Buckinghamshire; Lead Vocalist (2.20) and Green Walk (2.50) has been sent 137 miles by R Rowe from Storrington, West Sussex.

- 9 declared - 16531146: 8-4 Norman's Consument, 7-2 Founds Two, 5-1 King Aerylic, 7-1 New Tribs, 8-1 Soul Trad-

SOUR, TRADER is one to have reservations about, but she put up a useful performance in the context of this race when bearing Cavine is neck at Letoester lest month and is worth a context of this race when bearing Cavine is neck at Letoester lest month and is worth a context of the context o

1.20 STOKE ST MARY NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £5,000 added 2m 3f Penaity Value £3,518

BP

2 GOLDWYN (48) Bob Jones 10 12 ... HIMALAYAN BLUE J Banks 10 12 ... U4 NREEF (14) R Curts 10 12.....

ORIT ON A PROMISE N Walter 10: VERDE LUNA D Arbutanox 10:12: 54 LAST SPIN (7): J lenters 10:7

- 9 dec

- s coccured -BETHNG: 8-2 Lact Spin, 3-1 Oct On A Promise, 5-1 Battlethip Bruce, Gold-wys, 7-1 Edge's Star, 10-1 Dence King, Honoloyan Blue, 14-1 others.

1.40 STEPHENSON SMART HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 added 3m 110yds

Hirimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Sprawston Boy 9st 10tb, Vic-

2.10 LL FIRTH MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE

2-33432 OR ROCKET (S) (D) R Dolen 10 11 12 D Mercelite 4-66225 DRIVING FORCE (7) (CD) Mrs M McCouf 9 11 9 J. J F Tilley 5-8122/P BANGHAM (200 (D) 5 McCour 8 10 10 D McCour 305/4-00 PUSEY STREET 60Y (LS) J Booley 8 10 0 J. J Lawrence

- 4 declared 
- 4 declared 
- 4 declared 
Minimum weight: 10st. True hendicap weight: Putsy Street Boy St. 9th
BETTING: evens Dr Rocket, 5-4 Deving Porce, 7-1 Rainham, 8-1 Panery

2.40 COTTESMORE MARES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added2m 5f 110yds

3.10 FAKENHAM RACECOURSE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 4f

Trony McCoy, the leader to the race for the jockeys' cham

Rony McCoy, the leader to the race for the jeckeys' cham-pionship, came up smiling at Leicester yesterday after wip-ing away an embarrassing start to the meeting. Dumped by the favourite Jymjam Johnny helore even reaching the first flight in the opener. McCoy was able in forget the episode when steering Romany Creek to victory two races later. Starting the day on the R2-winner mark, the young Irishman held a sound chance of adding to his tally with Jymjam Johnny in the Birch Handicap Hurdle. But Jonjo O'Neill's gelding made a rapid exit, stumbling after 100 yards and giving McCoy no chance of staying in the saddle.

RETTING: 4-6 Artic Wines, 3-1 Prize Metch, 7-2 Adars Quent, 8-1 L'En

(CLASS F) £6,000 added 2m 110yds

yap, 7-2 Manaree, 4-1 Spronston Boy, 6-1 Natt Rold,

MISE N Walter 10 12

FAKENHAM

HYPERION .

12.10 Cyrus The Great 12.40 Sallsong 1.10 Eden's Star 1.40 Sprowston Boy 2.10 Dr Rocket 2.40 Ar-

GOING: Chose course - Good (Good to Soft in places); Hurdle course - Good.

Left-hand course. Run-m of 200yd.

Raccecourse is gooth of town off B1146. ADMISSION: Members 510; Grandsamd & Paddock 56 (accompanied under-16s free all conference of ADMISSION).

VINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Prophets Honour (12.10)

won at Leicesser on Thursday.

LONG-DISTANCE BURNERS: Prize Match (2.40) has been sent
187 miles by Tuck from Oldbury-on-the-Hill, Gloucestersburg, King
Of Babyton (12.10) has been sent 180 miles by Lady Herries from

7am inspection (snow forecast)

12.10 EASTERN DAILY PRESS JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (DIV I)

£3,500 added 3YO 2m

PROPHETS HONDOR (7) (7) P leasure 11 10...
INGHEDRY BOY (13) J Jeriens 10 12...
CYRUS THE OREST K Baley 10 12...

3 CTRISS THE GREAT K Balley 10 12 R Downcody
4 9000 SO FA C Allen 10 12 J. F Titley
5 MARES SUPER TOP I Peace 10 12 J. F Titley
6 55 Kiben for Balaminot (13) Lady Revies 10 12 E Marghey
7 5 MECHA EXPRESS (25) M Beaters 10 12 D. Walter
6 OPERA RAW ID Congrue 10 12 D. Walter
9 Westman STER (13) M Tomplens 10 12 D. Gallegher
9 Sectioned Beater 10 12 D. Gallegher
7-1 Cyrest Tan Gener, 16-1 Birthday Boy, Good So Fa, Westminston, 201 others.

12.40 GB PRINT SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £4,000 added 2m

42111-0 Fix OUT (25) 90 D Bestrian 9 12 0... M Browner 42111-0 Fix OUT (25) 90 D Bestrian 9 12 0... M Browner 410-0 Fix OUT (25) 90 J Bestrian 7 11 12 ... J F Tribay F-24146 QUEET AMUSEMENT (24) (0) 7 Clement 411 10 ... N Mean 41122F LUCY TUTY (15) (97) Februar 4 11 5 ... Aspet (5) 2233-24 PART OF ANOIS (2) (8F) 0 Mean 5 11 2 ... B Februar 5 17-0522 SAUSONIA (7) (0) John Wiyes 6 10 13 ... R Dustroody 6/5-026 CAPTARN MARRIAN ABE (14) (8F) D Trion 5 10 30 ... E Martin

Medicarn weight: 10st. True handlesp weights: Wordys Wer Set 12to. Buzzerin Crost 9s; 4to. Vallam Man 8st 11th. BETTING: 44. Figree, 9-2 Locy Tatly, 5-1 Poir of Jackst, 21-2 For Out, 7-1 Salisang, 8-1 Emerald Vention, 10-1 Quiet Assertament, 12-1 others.

1.10 EASTERN DAILY PRESS JUVENILE NOVICES' HURDLE (CLASS D) (DIV B)

£3,500 added 3YO 2m

BATTLESIOP BELICE N Calagram 10 12...

tie Wings 3.10 Can Can Charlie

es). CAR PARE: M

CHARD SELLING HURDLE (CLASS 6) £2,400 3m 1,10yds

er pressure is already viewed with some suspicion. A pooling of the Coral and Ladbrokes

gle, strong sphere of influence. Recent movements have also confirmed a NAPP suggestion that the act of betting would soon be witnessed in a different location. "We have been spec-ulating how long it would be before betting terminals were allowed in pubs and clubs," High said. "And with Bass's connections in that area it is bound to be sooner rather than later.

That would require quite a switch but if that legislation comes in, as we believe it will, it would put Bass in an almost unassailable position. In general, this wouldn't be healthy for competition at all. It will be a restriction of choice and only those bets that Coral feel are appropriate would be offered.'

In general, it would also be on Satellite Information Ser- should mean punters relocating

2.20 Fortunes Course

2.50 Powder Boy

themselves in the nearest alternative, it may not be as simple as that

The advent of Camelot has shown that horse players need only the slightest excuse to have their attention switched to a load of jiggling balls. The restake in SIS would create a sin- moval of a favourite corner in a favourite shop could also mean the removal of punters from the sport. Those who monitor turnover and levy would soon let us know of such an eventuality.

If there is a winner in all this (outside the boardroom and beavy share investors) it may be among the embittered Rorke's Drift ranks of the shop owner who has seen the lottery take over from the Big Three as the bete noire. Fewer players may mean better results. "If they reduce the number

of abops I think that might have a positive spin-of for the smaller bookmakers," Mark Dean, the owner of Derby's The Small Bookmaker (which is smaller than he would like), said yesterday. "We would hope to attract some of that custom. We

Bass profits, page 25

1994: Ribrect 7 11 5 S McNeil 4-1 (L G Contrell 5 ran

12 05-OULP DON'T RESE ME (RRE) (10) (M R Churches) M Churches 6 10 0 \_\_\_\_\_\_ .... W McFarfand African weight 10s., The hardcop reight Don Ree Me St 10b.

BETWEE 8-4 Durington, 5-1 Paget, 6-1 Take By Storm, 8-1 Femuck, Codine, 10-1 Hangover, Wice Statement, 12-1 others.

FORM GLIDE

FORM CLIDE

7ARCE BY STORM, who has only been lightly roced over jumps, made a pleasing terum at Wincanton last month, as he was a close third and still going easily enough when falling four out in the nonce handleap won by Sharp Performer. That was a depent race and he would althost certainly have reached the frame had he stayed on his frien, so he can be ranced here roone off the same mark. Duringtion jumped well when springing a surprise at Fortivell last week, benting Colonel Coil 1D lengths, with Fernicks a taller. That was only his second race after a season off, so he may well improve again and should go well under the penalty. Ex-lastin Paget was having his first run for Paul hichols when jurseating at the 10th here two weeks ago at Follmouth Bay's race. He was a close second at the time and can go close if improving his jumping. Nitholis also runs Coolines, the bruke a blood ressel on his final start at Heinford List season and tooks the stable second string. Excell Mises makes most appeal of the rest, deeplie still being a moiden at seven and disappointing at Catterick last time.

Selection: TARC BY STORM.

1.50 MENDIP PLYWOOD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £3,648

BETTINE: 2-1 Show Falth, 5-1 Merlins Dream, 6-1 Florence Flotter, 8-1 Moneghetti, 10-1 Ethinani,

FORM GUIDE SHOW FARTH, witner of the Britania Handicap at Royal Ascot two years ago and fourth in this season's Cambridgeshire, looks the type to make a smart hunder. He is out of 8 Furry Glen mare, so his breeding gives plenny of encouragement, and the fact that he acts well on sort ground is another positive factor. He should make a winning start to his new catter.

on soit ground is another positive factor. He should make a winning start to his new catern. 
Ethabati was also smart on the Flar at best pind, having joined William Mur for 22,000grs, 
made a picesing debut over timber when runner-up to Trade Wind here lost month. He should 
win a race soon. Mertinis Dream impressed when winning here in Detoper and was not disgraced in petter company at Ascot last time, bestern under 10 lengths in fifth to Speadwell 
Prince. The concession of 71b all round may prove his undoing, however. Moneghetti, who 
has his first run for Martin Pipe, is only a moderate all-weather handicapper on the Flat, 
white Child Heights will struggle to stay the tip over hundres even mond a share course 
like this. Of more interest are Floriania Flutter, an Irish bumper farmer who showed pterry 
of promise first time over hundles for David Eisworth when splitting Kalone Abbot and Major 
Senentia II Sandown. Selection: SHOW FAITH

220 GAY SHEPPARD CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £3,566

1 Tour Leader, Storm Drum, 12-1 others. 1994: Leastowne 6 10 12 G Tormey 4-1 IG A Hamu 16can

14-1 Prior Street, 16-1 others. 1994: Cheny's Lao (RE) 4 10 12 M Flagerald 11-10 (N J Heroerson) 11 ray



of the major bookmaking chains

Pipe seeks six-timer Oats last year but the difference Miinnehoma, the 1994 Grand between the pair would be 25th

National winner, is one of five Martin Pipe entries for the Welsh National at Chepstow on 27 December. Pipe, attempting to win the race for the sixth time in eight years, has also entered Riverside Boy, Cache Fleur, Chatam and Terao.

Earth Summit, 20 lengths hehind Master Oats last year when the race was switched from Chenstow's abandoned meeting to Newhury on New Year's Evc. is 5-1 favourite with the sponsors, Coral.

Nigel Twiston-Davies's chaser received 8lh from Master

Master Oats is 7-1 joint sec-ond-favourite in Coral's list but

is not a definite runner. At the same odds is Superior Finish. trained by Jenny Pitman, who could also run Willsford, The latter's participation depends on the ground conditions not being too soft.

WELSH NATIONAL (Chepstow. 3m WELSH MATHONIA (LINESSTON 37 DE 110)yils) Corat 5-1 Earth Summir, 7-1 Mas-ter Cats, Suberor Finst, 8-1 Lo Stregore, Wils-ford, 50-1 Cache Fleer, Mannehorma, 12-1 Finer's Nato, Grange Stoke, Midnight Coller, Nu-arte, Teran Tyran, 14-1 Pinerside Boy, Solton Abbe, 18-1 Commercial Anta, Lucie, Lane, Plastic Spaceage, Well Briefed, 20-1 others,

# Tracks hope

Track officials were confident last night that today's meetings while at Taunton the racecourse our local weatherman racing is 2-I on to take place."

spection today at 7am.

# to beat frost

at Taunton and Nottingham can defy the threat of frost and snow. Racing could have taken place at Nottingham yesterday. manager reported: "According to

forecast overnight, and the stewards decided to hold an in-

FORM GUIDE

LEAD VOCALIST hows to be an improving sort and the step up to three miles should work in insite source, so to be an improving sort and the step up to three miles should work in insite source, and it is consisted at thoreester in October and mode the most of a 6th pull to reverse placing; with maximal on a return to that course that weeks later. Lead Vocalist has not been out since, but he is only 3th higher today and appeals despite the absence. Fortunes Course is an objects after acreat following his courageous return win at Window recently, when he made all the running to bear Courties Stockings two and a not lengths. Happy Homes policy up. That was over the prended two and three-quarter miles and the extra distance today is very mich in its decur, as both his wins last year all Southwell and Bangor — were over three miles. Royal Piper I had previous Newton Abbot winner Jadidh, well behind when I turd to Karar at Chepston (Cool Chown pulled up) but would probably prefer more out undertoor, four Legider leastly landed the odds in a course and distance howee hurdle last morthly and Tour Leader easily landed the odds in a course and distance nowce hundle less month and will appreciate the move into hendicap company after finishing tailed off in Tennessee Tivist's fleeticity race less time. River lollend is unproven at this sort of trip but will at least strip filter tollowing his run nere behind Secret Four.

Selections LEAD VOCALIST

2.50 DUNSTER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £5,000 added 5YO plus 3m Penalty Value £3,518

1	515-22P	DESIERT RIUN (IRE) (25) (The Reynolds Family) P Nictrolls 7 12 0
2	41/113-4	WISAGA (25) (D) D. Helisterius; N Tyrstor-Daves 9 11 12
3	017224	POWDER BOY (28) (CD) (BF) (Don Harford) R Hodges 10 11 9
4		SCOTONG (14) 10 G & D J Potenson; R O'Suthern 9 11 4
5		CERTAIN ANGLE (20) (The Phorm Syndrose P Hobbs 8 11 3 C Manufe
6	4F1223	DESPENDABLE (576) (D) (Ron Stone) Mrs I, Richards 8 10 13
7	3/P41U-5	ALICE SMITH (20) (D) (Mrs. J.H.E. Eddey) 9 Eddey 8 10 12
6	5-61330	GREEN WALK (17) 1C Contracts & Rose 8 10 9
9	CPU-PPO	GABISH (6) (B Screen) 8 Screen 10 10 0
10	F.PGPOP.	TEARPUL PRINCE (225) (C W Mitchell C Mitchell 11 10 0G Upton
11	34/0P-P6	APARECIDA (FR) (8) (M Goffin) M Goffin 9 10 0
_	. ,	- 11 declared -
Min	iman wey	ht: 10st. True handicup weggers. Gabish 9st 2lb. Tearful Prince 8st 11lb. Apareckia 8st 64b.

is not one to rely on.

3.20 BICKNOLLER HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,556

l	413112	NORDIC VALLEY (IRE) (12) (C) (D) (BF) (Fonc House Rearry) M Pips 4 11 100 Bholgwater
ŀ	130104	THE CAUMBRIE (IRE) (258) The On The Run Parmership G Baking 7 11 8 A P MoCoy
•	10162-6	BOLD ACRE (25) (0) (Mrs Maron C Morgani D Burchell 5 11 6
	01F333	HAVE A MICHTCAP (14) (CD) IR A M Recognized Lict N Lithnough 6 11 0 M Richards
,	240013	PLEUR DE TAL (230) (D) (John Woods) W Turner 4 10 13
,	0350-00	SPORTS VIEW (1A) (D) UT Warren F Hodges 6 10 5
		- 6 declared -
-	TRIC. 2.4	The Courses E. 7 North Walley E. 1 Umm & Michigan C. 1 Clove de Tal Sports View

SPORTS VIEW would have been an impressive immer here fast time hit for unsealing at the last, leaving Secret Four to win, with Have A Nighticap well back in third. He has been put up 4to for that run, but he still looks well treated and can make the most of the 13to he receives from Nordic Valley. Martin Pipe's fough and consistent four-year-old ran out the easy winner of an amateurs handicap hurdle here last morth for his severith win since May However, he is a stone higher now having run really well last time to be runner-up i Variot in a claiming hundle at Haydock, which he was caught on the post having looked the winner two out, and probably has enough weight. The Causamus, successful times times las-season and a good fourth to Eurolink. The Lad at Newtourn in March on his final start, may

However, Fakenham were less optimistic about their chances for today, Snow was

4	72.522	Control title (title (real title us) over to safe to order the comment in the two order	1
2	41/113-4	VISAGA (25) (D) D. Helsterman N. Tyrstor-Daves 9 11 12	ı
3	012224	POWDER BOY (28) (CD) (BF) (Don Huriard) R Hodges 10 11 9	ľ
4	3F-0F55	SCOTON (14) 10 G & D J Pohrnson; R O'Sulbiern 9 11 4	ł
5		CERTAIN ANGLE (20) (The Proprint Syndroster P Hobbs 8 11 3	۱
6	4F1223	DESPENDABLE (576) (D) (Roy Stone) Mrs I, Richards 8 10 13	ı
7		ALICE SMITH (20) (D) Orts J H E Eddeyl 9 Eddey 8 10 12	ı
6	5-61330	GREEN WALK (17) 'C Connell & Rose 8 10 9 D O'Sulivan	ł
9	CPU-PPO	GABISH (6) (B Serven) 8 Serven 10 10 0	j
		TEARPUL PRINCE (225) (C W Mighel) C Mighel 11 10 0G Upton	ı
11	34/0P-P6	APARECIDA (FR) (8) (M Goffin) M Goffin 9 10 0	l
		- 11 declared -	ı
M	iman west	ht: 10st. True handicup weggns: Gabish 9st 3tb, Tearful Prince 8st 11tb, Abareckia 8st 6lb.	ı
RF	TING 9-4	Vissere, 5-1 Certain Antic. 6-1 Desert Run. Desnendable, 8-1 Scotoni, Powier Boy.	ı

1994; Cregg Boreen 7 11 7 C Moude 3-2 IP / Hobbs Bran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GLIDE

CERTAIN ANGLE cannot be a confident selection given that he has come to grief in four of his last five starts, but he is imming well and would have been a good second to Docs Diemma at Ascot less time but for falling two out. He benefited from the mistakes of Others when winning at Eveter in October, but it was still a good effort to beal Cool Character a length and he is only 3th higher how. Maga usually good effort to beal Cool Character along and he is only 3th higher how. Maga usually good will fresh, so he may not improve much on his Chettenham fourth to Flonda Sty, even though it was his first hart since Boong Dav. He too has had problems with his jumping, but both last season's falls were all Chetenham and he will find this course easier. Following two seconds to Par Senior, at Hereford and Warwick, Desert Rum was desappointing in Flonda Sty's race, being pulled up before the first good last. He will find it easier to dominate, as he likes, here and connot be written off. Powder Boy should at least strip litter having been failed off last of four behind Magasoot.

	413117	MORDIC VALLEY (IRE) (12) (C) (D) (BE) (Fonc House Recirc) M Pips 4 11 100 Biologicates
	130104-	THE CAUMPLIE (IRE) (258) The On The Run Parmershipi G Baking 7 11 8 A P McCoy
	10162-6	BOLD ACRE (25) (0) (Mrs Manon C Morgani D Burchel 5 11 6
	01F333	HAVE A MICHTCAP (14) (CD) IR A M Reconcess Lici N Litmouer, 6 11 0 M Richards
	240013	PLEUR DE TAL (230) (D) Liono Viccosi W Turner 4 10 13
	0350-00	SPORTS VIEW (14) (D) U T Warner P Hodges 6 10 5 Prost
		- 6 declared -
E	TING: 2-1	The Countrie, 5-2 Nortie Valley, 5-1 Have A Nightcon, 6-1 Flour de Tal, Sports View,

FORM GUIDE

### NOTTINGHAM

12,30 Wakt 1.00 Torrys Gift 1.30 Columcille 2.00 Castle Sweep 2.30 Sulvee 3.00 Callisoe Bay 3.30 **Euphoric Wusion** GOING: Chase course - Good to Firm: Hurtles - Good (Good to

GONG: Classe course - Good or Fam, included an places).

Left hard, oval course Plat and galloping with easy turns.

Resecourse is 2m east of city off 19/81 Cobock road. Notingfam rathway station (served by London S. Panerson is 2m away ADMISSION: Chip 512 (Juniors, 16-2) years, 58); Tattersalls 58, Silver Ring & Paddock 54, CAR PARK: free.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN BAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Big Theo 13.391 has been sent 251 miles by Mrs Nersy. Dutfield from Acmandal. Deven; Tonys Gilt 11.001 & St McBloo Drive 13.391 sent 198 miles by M Pipe from Nicholashuyae, Deven.

12.30 PLUMTREE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,400 added 2m 5f 110yds 

Minimum weight, 10st, True handcap weight Chukulen 9st 12b. BETTING: 6-4 Weid, 3-1 Target Line, 7-2 Barryben, 8-1 Trevinet 1 its Grand, 20-1 The Chairman, 25-1 Chebaten.

	14	70	TOLLERTON NOVICE HURDLE	(CLASS
			TOLLERTON NOVICE HURDLE £2,800 added 3YO 2m	
1	1	561	WASDOM (8) (D) K Morgan 11 5	
	123456	-	ASSISTER MESS M ROSESTE 10 12	Gary Lyo
	13	4	ACQUITTAL (48) (BF) J Made 10 12	
	Z		BEAU MATELOT Mes M Mutan 10 12	Richard Gae
	5	0	8005T (19) Mr. N Macausey 10 12	5 Wycz
	6	3	DALLY BOY (S) M H Esserb, 1012	Wy
	1 7		GYMCRAK HERO G Holmes 10 12	M Dwy
- 1	В		HADABET Mest Jacqueline S Dove 10 12	5 Corner (
1	9		MISEN TO THE LAST M Hammons 10 12	
	ŧD		LORD FREDERICK (14) Mess S Witton 10 12	
	11		NORDIC BREEZE (14) A Barley 10 12	J Ke
	11	P	PARK RIDGE (7) T Miles 10 12	
	13		PEREINE F Lotter 10 12	لوما لـ يا
-	14	P	AUSSIAN RIVER (8)   8xt2st 10 17	W McFarla
- 1	15	IJ	SHERAZ (12) N Trivier 10 12	
1	16		SELVER SLEEVE M Hammond 10 12	
	17		THAT OLD FEELING   White 10 12	D Bentis
	19	0	THREE WILD DAYS (12) T Tate 10 12	
	19		TROUBADOUR SONG IV Hagh 10 12	D Byn
	20	220463	WANSTEAD (26)   Jeniera 10 12	
- 1	21	04	ZNSBAR (7) J 850ey 10 12	R Joknson (
	22	42	MRL THYME (23) Mrs M. Reseley 10 7	G Lee (
	202240		OKAT BABY I Bracky 10 7	P McLoughi
	24	0	SOUPREME (12) Mrs N: Revely 10 7	P Nin
	25		TONYS GET M Pipe 10 7	

3655/PP STURMING STUFF (12) T George 10 12 0 .........R John

1.30 STAN MELLOR HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3m 3f 110yds

# 20-1413 THE 800 CLUB (12) N Body 7 11 - .....

Minumum weight: 10st. Time handsop weight: La Fontambieau 9st 6ib.
BETTING: 9-4 The Bud Club, 5-2 Columbia, 4-1 Paper Star, 5-1 Time Enough.
6-1 The Botter White, 20-1 La Fontalabbieau, 25-1 Staumag Staff.

- 7 declared -

2.00 OLIVER SHERWOOD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,800 added 2m 

2.30 TYNE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) 53,500 added 2m 303P-15 KEEP YOUR DISTANCE (19) (D) Wis M Reveloy 5 11 10 - 5 declared -BETTING: 6-4 Keep Your Distance, 7-2 Suivez, 4-1 Zeitoon, 8-1 Saint Gel

3.00 DAVID NICHOLSON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 1250-F1 CALLISDE BAY (14) (D) 0 Stationes 6 11 6 . . 4 0004-10 OLD ALE (23) | Coms 5 11 (). ......... BETTING: 1-5 Calison Bay, 5-1 Ask Tom, 12-1 Nagobella, 25-1 Old Ale.

3.30 LEVY BOARD MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m

# Lottery will give more to help poor **Sports politics**

The Sports Council yesterday promised that more money from the National Lottery would go to clubs and councils in poorer parts of the country.

Officials have found that many inner-city areas were unable to meet their contribution to the cost of projects such sports centres and swimming pools. So from the beginning of next year, successful applicants in 70 designated areas in England - 18 of them in London will have to pay a maximum of 10 per cent, instead of 35 per

cent at present. "In very exceptional circumstances, it will be even less, Derek Casey, the council's chief executive, said. "The figure of 35 per cent was proving a bit steep in the more deprived areas and applications were not coming in. Lottery money should be for all the people and this change of criteria should help.

The change of rules puts some sections of sport almost on a par with the arts, which require organisations to pay five per cent of the cost.

The council also plans to give more money in all areas to schools which open their facilities for community use, increasing the amount available from 65 per cent to 80 per cent. This is designed to increase the link between schools and clubs and prevent talented youngsters falling by the sporting wayside after finishing their studies. The council has given £7m to

no new schemes this month, taking the total to date to £122m

involving 751 projects.

The biggest of the latest awards, £1.7m, goes towards a multi-sports development at the Edge Hill College of Higher Ed-ucation in Ormskirk, Lancashire. The smallest award is £972 for an all-weather pitch at Ware Cricket Club in Hertfordshire.

### IndvCar test for unsettled Herbert

**Motor racing** 

Johnny Herbert, who won the British Grand Prix in July, may follow the former world champion Nigel Mansell to IndvCar racing. The move to the United

States depends on how Herbert performs in a test drive for the Pacwest team next week and whether he can find grand prix employment. "I have got to keep my options open." he said. Herbert is still without a Formula One drive for next season, despite finishing fourth in the drivers' championship with

competition with Mark Blundell for the second seat at Sauber-Ford alongside the German Heinz-Harald Frentzen. Herbert, however, is keen to stay in Formula One and after wins last season at Silverstone and Monza knows he can compete with the best - provided he has the right machinery at his

Benetton-Renault. He is in

disposal. "I don't want to be in grand prix racing just to make up the numbers," he said, "If, however. I can't drive with a competitive team, then I would certainly consider IndyCars."

Pacwest are searching for a leading driver to team up with another former Formula One driver. Brazil's Mauricio Gugelmin, in the IndyCar series which proved such a successful arena for Mansell. Herbert will test drive the team's Reynard-Ford at the Firebird circuit near Phoenix.

# FIXTURES

PUEFA CUP Third round second leg: Sparia Prague (0) v Mitan (2) (7.15); Lens (0) v Slava Prague (0) (7.30) POMTINS LEAGUE First Division: Stoke City v Naturagium Spreat (7.0); Eventon v Newcastle Utd (7.0). Second Division: Huddersfield v Rotherham 17.01. FA YOUTH CUP Se

Ice hockey BRITISH LEAGUE First Division: Chelmsford Chieftains v Peterbarough Pirates (8.0).

Other sports **RACING:** Fakenham (12.40); Notungham (12.30); Taunion (12.50)

> TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of soldiers used to remove snow from Steaua Bucharest's pitch before last night's Champions' League match with Juventus. The Italian champions arrived in the Romanian capital a day late after being forced back to Turin by bad weather.

iew eve

into a

# There is something quite honourable and moving in the spectacle of two opponents retiring with honours even

the noisy and well-deserved tributes to Mike Atherton's great innings in Johannesburg on Monday, but those nail-biting fifth-day heroics also represented a triumph for an even more reticent creature: the draw, Cricket, once the subject of endless mockery for its frequent failure to deliver clearcut results, has in recent times ahsorbed the win-lose culture that daminates modern sport.

Television, dominated by impatient Americans and Australians, is devoted to the stark contrast between victors and vanquished: it laughter and tears. And one-day crazy arithmetic to find one, seems to have entered the bloodstream of the modern player. But what Atherton's innings proved was that a draw can be the best - the most dramatic and resonant result of all. He himself said as much in a post-match soundbite.

It is, on the face of it, ironic. Ac-

sporting thrills, Monday in Johanneshurg was a day of unremitting tedium. Nothing about it could have been captured by a programme of highlights, because there weren't any. England scored prefers a penalty shoot-out to a a measily 186 runs (two per over); handshake – it likes to cut between only one wicket fell. Maiden followed maiden in a dumh procescricket, which insists on a winner sion. For the casual spectator,

It wasn't easy to notice it amid all even if it has to resort to some counting down the overs must have seemed about as exciting as a chug-past of empty freight cars. But for fans it was a day of slowhurning drama. Every over represented a steady blunting of South Africa's hopes and nerves. As England prodded their way to safety, you could see shoulders sag in the outfield; when Brian Mc-Millan started mouthing curses at Jack Russell as he scarpered about the crease like, well, a Jack Rus-

sell, it was hard to stifle a cheer. It was only a draw, but as many armchair fans in chilly England were quick to say, in its way it was better than a win. We shouldn't be surprised by this. Some of the greatest games in recent memory have been draws. One thinks of



Graham Gooch's grand match at Lord's when he scored 333 against India, Mohammad Azharuddin replied with a dashing century of his own and Kapil Dev tonked four consecutive sixes to save the follow-on.

as a piece of grainy footage show-ing West Indians sprinting about like pinballs to secure a match-saving run-out on the final hall. One thinks of Cowdrey hobbling out for the last over with a broken arm, or of Gavaskar astounding history by scoring 221 to bring India to within an inch of an improbable last-innings target of 438. What could be more winning than this?

There are many other examples. Yet the draw continues to strike many people as a soft option, an infuriatingly inconclusive waste of time. Americans famously dislike football because of its enthusiasm for low-scoring draws, which must indeed seem pointless to a mentality that assumes the only keep the tension going right down

to win. There is something quite honourable and moving in the spectacle of two opponents retiring with honours even, having withstood the hest the other had to offer, and with a tacit agreement to have another crack next week.

Draws of this sort are peculiar to cricket (and chess), where individual games are part of a larger match. There is a sense of mutual respect, which in the case of cricket, with its five-day tussies, seems well-earned. The mere possibility of a draw gives the game a third dimension, something richer than the monochrome finality of winning and losing. Close draws

brated tied Test, which exists now reason to play sport is to win. But to the wire by keeping alive both as a piece of grainy footage show- the point is not to win - it is to try teams' hopes of a win; even notso-close ones, like this week's, give the losing team something to fight for. So it is a shame that the draw has become something of an endangered species. In recent years it has become a rare beast. The bald figures are startling: in the 70 Tests before this tour England drew just 19. In the 70 before

that England drew 46. Atherton's "finest hour" stand m Johannesburg reminds us that a stand-off can be every bit as satisfying as a victory, but also (witness the shell-shocked look on Hansie Cronje's face afterwards) just as mortifying as a thrashing. It was, as they say, right out of the top draw.

Ken Jones is on holiday

Forest in

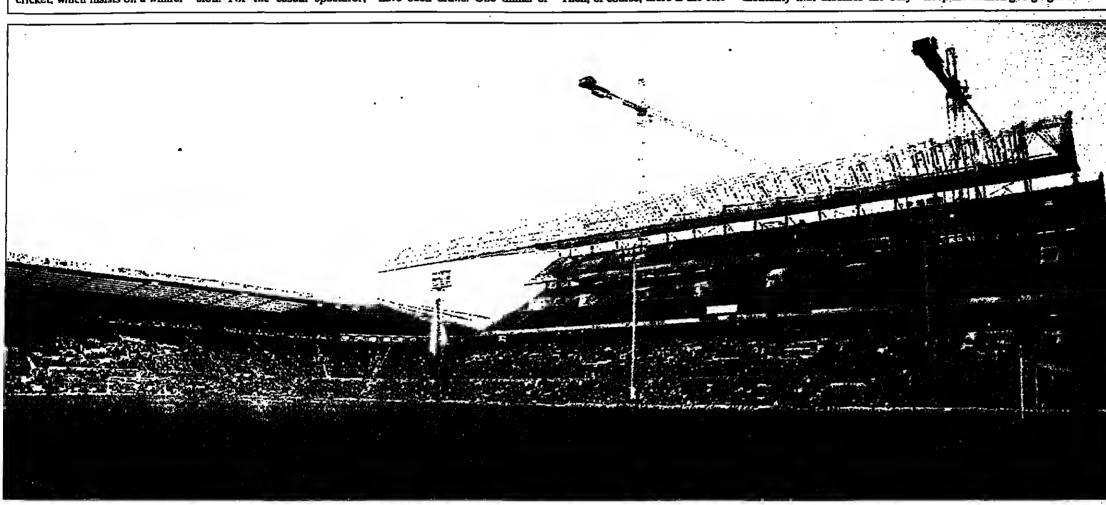
dire need

of new

recruits

Glenn Moore on the hard task ahead for Britain's last hope of European honours

As Frank Clark wearily pulled his bags from the caronsel at East Midlands airport in the early hours of yesterday morning he was asked if he would be able to strengthen his squad before the Uefa Cup resumes in March. "I



Dreaming spires: Despite the construction having only begun in June, Manchester United's new North Stand - the biggest in Britain - should be completed by April

already uses the ground for in-

ternationals, will scarcely be de-

terred by an increase of 12,000

in potential ticket sales. In-

deed, the single higgest reason why the new national stadium

is unlikely to be built in the east

of the city is rising on the banks

of the Manchester Ship Canal.

rie, the construction consultants

for the North Stand, believes

that is a matter of technological

advance and Manchester Unit-

ed's determination. "At the mo-

ment, the next stand most

capable of expansion is the old

Stretford End," he said, "but

that was rebuilt only a couple

of years ago and the club is un-

likely to want to knock it down

south, while police would be loath to let United expand to the

east on to what is the main con-

course into the stadium. "As

structural engineers, we regard

Beatty said. "They said it wouldn't he possible to build a

stand on the north side because of an access road, but we've

managed it. In fact, it's a matter

of some pride that the building has gone on without that road

these problems as a challenge,

A railway line runs to the

for a few years yet."

How hig can Old Trafford get? Peter Beatty, joint man-aging director of Hilstone Lau-

# United remodel their theatre of dreams

Six months after work began, they are already allowing fans

into Old Trafford's new super structure. Guy Hodgson reports

here is one thing that you can be sure of when you talk about about Old Trafford's new North Stand: it is going to end in tiers. Three to be Chelsea, the bottom tier - the precise, a massive 26,000 scatter monument to the enduring popularity of Manchester United.

sheer size of the thing hits you. Even in an age where the breath is regularly taken away by spec-tator areas such as at Elland Road, Anfield and St James' Park, this is a gargantuan structure, reaching high into the old Trafford Park docklands

It dominates the theatre of dreams, at 3,600 tons looming twice the size of the existing structures - and Old Trafford was hardly a tin-pot shambles with rickety old sheds to stand under to start with. When it is complete - and the estimates people will be creating a noise redolent of the terrace era in

support of Eric Cantona and co. Even though I'd seen the drawings and been involved throughout the planning stages, it surprises even me," Martin Edwards, United's chief executive, said about the stand that will be the higgest in Britain.

So is the speed with which the North Stand is being erected. Work began only in June and by last Saturday's match against equivolent of the previous court lever stand built for the 1966 World Cup - was occupied for

ing the "sorry, no more seats" numbers of last year and the undertaking to have at least that number ready for the European

the first time.

"The simple problem was of little more than 43,000, it can hardly be accused of stintdemand," Edwards continued. meant we were turning thou sands of people away. In those to cost around £19m, which

in everyone who wanted to watch Manchester United. We had 123,000 members last year,

**Manchester United's new three-tier North Stand** 

same size, but we couldn't fit dictated we couldn't let the shape of the ground dictate what we did."

Ah, the economics. United

pleted six months ahead of to Old Trafford several times more about pennies in the till buy the land it stands on makes youd United's matches, inthe total cost more than £1,000

ford 100 times before the stand is paid for, which means five seasons if we're lucky," Edwards said. "We're usually close to capacity for League games, but Coca-Cola Cup ties and Euro-

The stand will also provide cluding European club finals. It would be natural to host more

"We've estimated we are FA Cup semi-finals there, too, Championship has been com- most of whom wanted to come have been accused of worrying going to need to fill Old Traf- while rugby league, which

### Capacity of Premier League grounds

- 1	Premier League Chr
- 1	Manchester United
of	Aston Villa
PG	Leeds United
4	Liverpool
_	Arsenal
90	Newcastle United
-	Chelsea
15	Sheffield Wednesday
	Manchester City
<b>10</b> .	Middlesbrough
. I	Nottingham Forest
30	Tottenham Hotspur
	Blackbum Rovers
	Wimbledon
<i>7</i> 11	West Ham United
	Eventon
	Southampton
74	Coventry
	Queen's Park Ranger
	Holton Mondone

55,000\* approx 39,400 40,204 38,755 30,000 33,000 26,000 26,014 40.000 approx 23,500

19.000

North Stand: 26,000 approx Holte End: 13.500 approx The Kop: 12,681 North Bank: 12,400 Exhibition Stand: 11,955 East Stand: 11,326 Spion Kop: 11,000 The Kippex: 11,000 East Stand: 10,315 East Stand: 10,000 Jack Walker Stand: 11,000 Homesdale Road Stand: 8,500 West Stand: 8,000 . Gwladys St Terrace: 8,000 West Stand: approx 8,500 Main Stand: approx 6,000 Eltersie Road Stand: 4.842

do not know, you will have to ask the chairman," the Nottingham Forest manager replied. Clark is likely to do just that himself, but he knows he is unlikely to get a positive answer, at least not to the extent required to make a difference, It may seem churlish to talk of strengthening Forest so soon after they earned a I-O aggregate win over Olympique Lyonnais, but Clark is aware there

are tougher challenges ahead. Already into tomorrow's draw for the quarter-finals are Barcelona, Bayern Munich and them. Daunting opponents, especially as Colin Cooper, so steadfast at the heart of Forest's defence during Tuesday's goalless draw in Lyon, will he sus-

pended for the first leg. Cooper picked up his second ellow card of the competition for kicking the ball away and, the with he said be hoped the elebraight appeal after looking at the video, he admitted a reprieve was unlikely. "It is going to be very hard to get here," Cooper said. "If we get a big one I do not know whether I would rather we were at home first, so I could play in the Nou Camp for example, or away, because there would be a great atmosphere for a second leg

at the City Ground." With Carl Tiler now at Aston Villa. Alf Inge-Haaland is Cooper's likely replacement as their thin squad is stretched yet further. Any new players would have to be signed by 15 January to be eligible for the rest of the competition but there is little

money available.
Although Clark has brought in almost £10m with the sales of Stan Collymore, Tiler and Lars Bohinen, more than half has gone in various deductions and on Kevin Campbell and Andrea Silenzi - neither of whom can make the first team. The rest is helping to pay off Forest's multi-million pound debt. However, each tie realises £500,000 and the same amount is in limbo awaiting the Premier League's ruling on Collymore's claim to a cut of his transfer fee.

Should Forest draw the likes of Milan the emphasis, once more, is likely to be on defence. It is almost eight hours since they conceded a goal in Europe and Cooper said: "The way we play has been ideally suited to it. Teams have put us under a lot of pressure but we do not allow them to get hehind us because we play fairly deep. They can play some nice football but they cannot play one-twos behind us. "We are like everyone else, we

would love to win three or fournil, but it does not matter in the end as long as you get through." Forest's progress has already helped Steve Stone enter the

tablished international who came in because of injuries and took his chance. I thought I did reasonably well and Terry Venables did say players from teams who stayed in Europe will come to the forefront of his thoughts. I would love to be in next summer's championships."

# Magic moments in diaries of the unexpected

events of 25 January that resonate through the pages of the year's most riveting football

Eric Cantona did not, alas, keep a diary giving his version of that fateful night at Crystal Palace or its aftermath, Alex Ferguson did, and A Year in the Life (Virgin, £12.99) reveals how the was torn between the instinct to defend Cantona and a realisation that he was indefensible.

Amazingly. Ferguson was still unsure what had happened when he arrived home to learn that Cantona had "karatekicked the guy". Too sick at heart to watch a recording, he went to bed, but could not sleep. "At 5.25am l got up and put the video on. l couldn't believe what I saw.'

It is testimony to Ferguson's candour and the editing skills of Peter Ball that the tempo does not falter either side of Selhurst Park. The inside story of Andy Cole's £7m signing is

hurn's shortcomings.
The extent to which l'affaire

Commit soof freight

Construction on north side of stadiese will not affect sunlight

Cantona dominated a season hristling with hig stories is evident from another diary, by the Charlton striker Garry Nelson. Amid the unexpected delights of Left Foot Forward: A Year in the Life of a Journeyman Footballer (Headline, £12.99), is this initial reaction: "Just when I thought I was safe to go to parties again and say I'm a footballer ...

Fast forward to March. Nelson is pole-axed at Bristol City and is carried off in agony. "A City fan leaned out of the crowd. That's your career over. vou hastard, he crowed. Thoughts strayed to Cantona. If only he'd been carrying the stretcher, I'd have paid all his fines for him if, dropping me like a hot potato, he'd vaulted the hoarding..."

Karren Brady's Brady Plays

the Blues (Pavilion, £14,99) is billed as the diary of Birmingham's mould-breaking managfascinating - Ferguson then ing director. Although one skipper does, however, quote the author that be turns so many from stewards, kit men and Breedon Book of Scotish Foot- What price Ca considered him better value always has a sense of events one manager (sadly anony- knock-ins into a dramatic litary, press-box assistants than from ball Records (£14.99), edited by Lee posters?

Everything is now geared to-wards 25 December, yet it is the pulls no punches about Black-

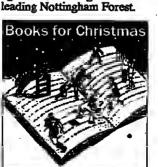
contains entertaining insights into the odd trio of Brady, David Sullivan and Barry Fry. At one point, Fry tells a player Sullivan wants him out. Brady insists the owner said no such thing, forcing the manager to backtrack. Later, she turns to Fry saying: "I can't believe you did that." The Arthur Daley of football replies:

being viewed with hindsight, it

"Yeah, Kazza, it was a bit of a kick in the bollocks, wasn't it?" Which hrings us back to a certain Frenchman. Ian Ridley's Cantona: The Red and the Black (Gollancz: £14.99) is an intelligent and critical study of a life and a career. The book is "unauthorised" and better for it, Ridley shedding far more light on the complex character he calls "part Rambo, part Rimbaud" than Cantona did in

his self-justifying autobiography. Gary McAllister stays on the fence about Cantona's time at Leeds in Captain's Log (Mainstream, £14.99). The Scotland

"a poor man's Joe Jordan". He is also more forthcoming about how, but for Brian Clough's belligerence, he might now be



As a study of a folk hero, David Instone's The Bully Years (Thomas Publications, £8.99) is short on controversy (apart from Steve Bull's ongoing feud with Leicester's Steve Walsh) but long on goals. All the 250-plus Bull has scored for Wolves are described, and it is a tribute to

Vying with the diary for format of the year is the oral his-

tory. Kicking & Screaming, by Rogan Taylor and Andrew Ward (Robson, £16.95), is recommended especially to anyone who forgot to video the BBC2 series while watching Cracker. Memories and myths trace a national obsession from the days when a pair of boots had to last years through the Brylcreem Boys to today's mil-

Old Firm (Mainstream, £14.99) performs a similar role in recording eye-witness accounts, laced with acid Glaswegian wit, of the past 50 years of Rangers and Celtic. It is a tale of devotion, rivalry and higotry - and that's just the players.

Tom Watt must also have heen up to his spectacles in interview tapes. Curiously, A Pas-sion for the Game: Real Lives in Football (Mainstream, £14.99) coaxes more "real" experience Robert Chase. My favourite involves the

PA announcer at Liverpool. Annoyed by the Tannoy man who gave details of a car to be moved as Tommy Smith was about to take a penalty, George Sephton wrote in pleading "Gissajob". They did, but he froze at his first game.

"All my mates are down there in the crowd. I've either got to get on and do this or pack

whose latest batch include books on Blackburn, Bolton, Derby (a pictorial record) and a timely paean to Middlesbrough's past, Ayresome Park Memories, by Eric Paylor and John Wilson (all £14.99). Meanwhile, their

the likes of Ron Atkinson and Gordon Smailes, is a must for tartan anoraks.

Hamlyn are market leaders in the "official" illustrated homage. An impressive autumn collection features updated editions on Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham, plus a new volume on Celtic (ali £16.99). As arguably the fattest and

most expensive tome ever, A Football Compendium (British Library, £60) is a Gazza among

(£12.99) may have a similar appeal. An illustrated huyers' guide to memorabilia, it is a treasure trove of shirts, caps. trophies, medals, works of art, records, books, stamps, pro-grammes, cigarette cards et al. What price Cantona's old Bruce

my bags and emigrate." He surreference works. Compiled by vived, and is still going strong, but the next day: "I was in my car, driving through Bootle, lionaire players and their England squad and it may yet Peter J Seddon, its 5,000 entries detail everything written or recorded about the game in earn Cooper a recall. The cen-tral defender played two Umbro agents.
Stephen Walsh's Voices of the and I stopped and just cried for Cup matches during which Engthese islands since 1863. For ex-20 minutes. My nervous system land conceded six goals. On both occasions the back four was example, there have been 45 books was shredded." on Arsenal, nine on George Best and one on Albanian footy. As tears go by, the heavy-weight club histories get higger perimental and it showed. One for completists.

Duncan Chilcott's Hamlyn Cooper said: "You can look and better. No one does nostalat it from that point of view but gia as expertly as Breedon, Guide to Football Collectables I am sure there is many an es-

rergus ready aga

Pis the Hendry i≅st in

**Pactice** 

1.00

in South Africa Ray Illing-worth, the England manager,

promised him the first two Tests

of the series - since when the

final Test of last summer and played well enough to take a

half-century off the West Indies.

But he has had failures as well,

particularly in Perth earlier this

year when finishing the Ashes

series with a pair, and his own average of 22 after 16 Test in-

nings urgently needs improving. Crawley understands the

problems batting first-wicker

down presents but is a willing re-

cruit. "It's my favourite position, the one I would choose," he said.

"It is a vital position because you

either have to act as a No 5 or

as an opener, depending when

colm and Angus Fraser are all

rested in Paarl - as is the cap-

tain, Michael Atherton, For

Boland, the former England

Test bowler, Philtip DeFreitas.

will have more to prove than

anyone following Illingworth's

assertion that the World Cup

ENGLAND (Four-day match v Bolond, Paarl starting today): A J Stewart (capt), P A Smith J P Crayley, G P Thorpe, G A Hick, R C Posse (wkt), M Watterson, D Gough, R P. Bingworth, Iv C Hott, P J Maron,

Dominic Cork, Devon Mal-

the first wicket falls.

door remains open.

Crawley batted at No 3 in the

runs have dried up.

**Crawley is** 

given chance

to impress

Cricket

John Crawley has landed the job he wanted most this winter - and

England can hank on him try-

ing to make a real success of it. It seems certain that Crawley will

walk out to bat at No 3 for next

week's third Test against South

Africa - but he will know exactly

what another member of the

squad is going through.
Of course I've got mixed

feelings," the 24-year-old Lan-cashire player said after being

handed the position England

hoped Mark Ramprakash

would fill with distinction. Craw-ley will bat at No 3 in the four-

day game against Boland starting today in Paarl - the only

fixture between the second and

third Tests. "You would be quite

an evil person if you didn't. I'm

happy to get the chance but I

know exactly how Mark feels. It

has happened to me." Ramprakash has been left out

following scores of nine, four

and nought in his last three

knocks. Although he is only 26,

his future looks far from bright.

England have picked him for 19

Tests over the past five years, but

his average is below 17. After

showing encouraging early form

# Ferguson is ready to play again

RUPERT METCALF

The Duncan Ferguson come-back begins tonight. The Ever-ton and Scotland striker, who was released from Glasgow's Barlinnie prison last month after serving 44 days of a threemonth sentence imposed for head-butting an opponent while playing for Rangers, had his 12-match playing ban suspended by a judge yesterday.
Tonight Ferguson will play for

Everton's reserve team against their counterparts from Newcastle United, in a hurriedly arranged Pontins League fix-ture. "There'll be 15,000 to 20,000 people there - that's how influential Duncan is on Merseyside," his team-mate. Dave Watson, said. "If he comes through, he's got a chance for Monday," when Everton entertain West Ham in a televised Premierskip game.

Yesterday, at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, Lord Prosser ruled that a judicial review into the 12-match ban imposed by the Scottish Football. Association should take place. The suspension, which still has seven games to run, has been lifted until the judicial review is We feel he has been doubly

punished," the Everton secre-tary, Michael Dunford, said: "We don't think a custodial sentence was appropriate, but that was what the court adjudged and we have to respect . that. Ferguson had the suspension imposed by the SFA following an incident in April City could face a fine, a suspen-1994, when he butted a Raith ded sentence—or even the clo-Rovers defender, John McStay. It was upheld by an appeals tribunal last month.

Ferguson sat ont one match. for Rangers before the ban was put on hold pending the court hearing. After joining. Everton last season, he played in the first two matches of this

fixtures have counted towards the suspension.

While Ferguson served time for his on-field misdemeanours. Paul Gascoigne has escaped the same fate. Neither the England midfielder nor his Rangers team-mates John Brown and Alan McLaren - nor Billy Dodds of Aberdeen - will be prosecuted for their involvement in various ugly incidents during a Scottish Premier Division match at Ibrox last month. Glasgow's Procurator Fiscal said last night he had considered a police report on the match and had decided "to take no proceedings against any person on this occasion."

Another relieved man is the Aberdeen defender, Stewart McKimmie, who will not face legal action after an alleged eling offence for which he was sent off at Partick last Saturday.

The Republic of Ireland will have more fans on their side at Wednesday's European Championship qualifying play-off against the Netherlands at Anfield. The Dutch FA has taken up only 11,000 of its 16,300 allocation, and the surplus will now go to the Irish, who should have more than 22,000 people cheering them on Roy Keane is un-likely to be playing in a green shirt, however. The Manchester United midfielder, recovering from a hernia operation, was not deemed fit enough to play in a reserve match last night.

The FA has charged Birming ham City with misconduct following crowd trouble at last month's First Division match against Millwall. If found guilty, City could face a fine, a suspensure of St Andrew's.

Birmingham expect to com-plete the Pattle Signing of Barcelona's Danish striker, Ronnie Ekeland, today: while one deal to go through yester-day saw Bolton Wanderers buy the Plymouth Argyle midfield-er Wayne Burnett, who has



Flowing move: Pete Sampras attends to a nosebleed during his match in Munich yesterday

# Sampras enjoys easy passage

Tennis

Pete Sampras, the world No I, earned \$762,500 (£508,000) for a day's work when he cruised to a 6-1, 7-6 first-round victory over his American compatriot Patrick McEnroe at the Grand Slam Cup yesterday.

Sampras, who guided the United States to their Davis Cup triumph last weekend despite an attack of cramp, can increase his earnings in the term before needing a herital been on loan at Burnden Park world's richest tennis event to operation. Everton's last four for two months, for £100,000. \$2.12m by winning the cup.

The Wimhledon champion won the first set against McEnroe with ease. Although his form slipped slightly in the second, Sampras used his big serve to maximum effect on the fast indoor surface to take the tiehreak 7-1. In fact, Sampras had more trouble with a nosebleed than with his opponent.

There are no rankings points at stake at the Munich tournament, which hrings together the 16 best performers from the four Grand Slams - Wimbledon and the US, French and Aus-

However, the huge amounts of money on offer persuade many players to postpone their end-of-year holiday following last month's ATP Tour world championship. Sampras has earned a bonus of \$500,000 just for turning up in Munich after victories at Wimhledon and the US Open. The losers in the quarter-finals - the next round

for Sampras – are guaranteed \$262,500, while the eventual winner's prize is \$1.625m. But the American admitted afterwards that he had no major expectations from the tournament

after the energy-sapping Davis Cup victory against Russia. "I still feel tired, mentally and physi-cally," Sampras said. "I have no great expectations here. I have come here thinking: 'If I can play well, then good. If not, then I'll go home and it's heen a good

In the quarter-finals, Sampras will play another big server, Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia. The American Todd Martin

booked his place in the quarterfinals with a 7-6. 6-4 victory over Spain's former French Open champion, Sergi Bruguera.

play for the Australian Rughy League, hut is without a British

Warrington have their first

choice scrum-half, Mike Ford

out for several weeks with a

hamstring injury, while his pre-

decessor, Greg Mackey, is due to retire and fly home to Aus-

The former Castleford

coach, Darryl Van de Velde, has

arrived from Australia to take

charge of his new club, Huddersfield, for the first time

against Whitehaven on Sunday,

chief executive of the South

Queensland Crushers to take

take part in Bristol rughy union

Wigan have been invited to

Van de Velde has resigned as

club at the moment.

tralia next week.

### to 'face the facts' Brian Lara says his dispute Lara said the Board "will now with the West Indies Cricket have to account to the people. Board of Control will force all

**Lara wants Board** 

the problems in Caribbean cricket out into the open. Lara withdrew from the West

Indies' tour to Australia after being fined by the WICBC - along with three other players for misconduct during last summer's series in England. The 26-year-old batsman said that he had "assessed my siru-ation and I thought that I could

not continue playing cricket under the same problems that keep coming up.

My issue is a very small onc in the entire scenario and hope-

fully next Friday when the West Indies board meet they could address the real facts and what's facing West Indies cricket."

The WICBC have scheduled

Barbados to address the dispute.

So, too, the players will have to account to the people."

For those who would prefer he fight his battles at the crease.

Lara suggested that the World Series Cup is the only series he will miss. He said: "If I am allowed hack into the team. whenever, I will just assess the situation and see if I can play under the same environment.

Lara has won the hacking of Trinidad and Tobago's sports minister. Pamela Nicholson. "I am very supportive of the line Brian took, Nicholson said. There is precedent for

governments intervening in cricket controversies and Trinidad's prime minister Basdeo Panday, has said that "if it hecomes necessary, governa meeting for 15 December in ment could become involved in resolving the matter.

### Sheldon appointed by Surrey

Surrey yesterday appointed Paul Sheldon as their new chief executive in succession to Glyn Woodman, who announced his resignation earlier in the day. Sheldon will take up the post

on I January. A former director of the publishers, Hodder and Sloughton, 42-year-old Sheldon played cricket for Durham University and Sussex Young Cricketers and has a background in sales, marketing and general management. Woodman, 48, started a three-

year contract in February 1993, but his term of office was marked

by membership unrest and dress-

ing-room dissatisfaction. Geoff Arnold left Surrey as coach in November 1993 and was replaced by Grahame Clinton - hut he resigned earlier this autumn.

Woodman said in a letter, announcing his decision: "I was hrought in three years ago and my brief was to run the club on a modern businesslike basis while recognising that it was still a memhers' club. This was a difficult and not always popular task. not made easier by having to serve under three separate chairmen in three years, I worked well with all three but their views on the club were different.

# Referees are cock-a-hoop

After being locked out for more than two months, the National Baskethall Association's reguiar referees may be officiating games as soon as Monday. Although their new agreement with the league has yet to be completed, the referees will be undergoing physical tests and a brief refresher course on the rules this week.

By the narrowest of margins. 27-26, the referees voted on Monday to accept a contract offer from the league that was, however, less lucrative than what they had wanted. Gone will be the replacement officials, most of whom came from the Continental Basketball Association. Most players are pleased.

"Even though we beat our-selves, the refereeing was hor-rendous," the Miami Heat center Alonzo Mourning said after Monday night's Miami-Boston game, in which a fight hroke out between the Celtics' Pervis Ellison and Kurt Thomas, a Heat rookie. "They shouldn't be able to call a high school game. It's sickening what they do. They blew the whistle too much, I thought there was an echo in the building. At one point I was

scared to touch anyone." Under the five-year agree-ment, first-year referees would make \$75,000 (£50,000) this year and \$99,000 in the final year of the deal, not including money for play-offs. Veteran officials would be paid \$211,000 this year and \$278,000 in the final year.

The league has claimed the

the highest paid in sport, but the referees said they would not.

The San Antonio Spurs signed All-Star center David Robinson to a new contract that will keep him with them the rest of his career. "The Spurs and David Rohinson have come to an

agreement on a multi-year contract.- a new multi-year contract that allows David Robinson to be a Spur for life," the Spurs' general manager. Gregg Popovich, said. He would not reveal terms of the agreements, but he did confirm that as long as Robinson played in the NBA it would be for the Spurs. Robinson, 30, in his seventh NBA season, last year was the league's Most Valuable Player

ing it difficult to get psyched up

for this tournament as I was in

the UK championship. How-

ever, I had to slow down the

pace to keep Tony away from

the table for long periods. He

became very nervous because of

ing 45th in the global rankings,

caused an upset when he de-

feated the world No 5, James

Lawler, who is currently ly-

Award winner.

### Unpaid Hadley leaves Widnes The club's chairman. Jim Warrington. Ellis has signed to

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

The Welsh rugby union and league international winger. Adrian Hadley, has walked out

on Widnes, saying he will never play for them again. Hadley, like a number of Widnes player, is owed money and said: "Widnes haven't honoured my contract and I'm not prepared to accept the situation any longer. I have played my last match for them."
Hadley, who is recovering from a knee injury, joined Widnes from Salford three

years ago and has been linked with a return to his old code at the age of 32. But he says that he has had no approaches and may retire.

Mills, said that he was disappointed by Hadley's decision, but promised that players will be paid before Christmas.

Another Weishman, Scott Gibbs, has been passed fit to return for St Helens in their Regal Trophy quarter-final against Halifax on Sunday. Saints have told Welsh clubs they are wasting their time trying to entice Gibbs, who replaces the cup-tied Paul Newlove, back to union. The Western Samoan captain, John Schuster, will miss that match could be out until the new year after break-

ing his thumb. Kevin Ellis, yet another Welshman, has offered his

cluh's sevens next May. services to his former club,

NBA: Indene 108 Philadelphia 91; New York 92 Dates 27; Houston 103 Utah 100; Sen An-torno 117 LA Laters 89; Phoena 112 Vancouver 108; Seattle 119 Toronto 89; Orlando 114 La Chopers 105.

SPORTING DIGEST

Milweil have signed Tim Carter on a free transfer from Oxford United. The 28-year-old goalkeeper, who was at The Den for two years until last summer, will cover for the American, Kasey keller, who flies to the United States for a lournament in January.

Nakhama Marings wan the Lifeague Yokohama Marinos won the J.League

to the United States for a lournament in Jenuary.
Yokohama Marinos won the J.League title yesterday when they best Verdy Kawasaki, the two-times defending champions, 1-0 in the second leg of the championship play-off in Tokyo.
TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Usefa Can third round, fleat legs Lyon O Notim Forest O INstance of the Language of the Championship play-off in Tokyo.
TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Usefa Can third round, fleat legs Lyon O Notim Forest O INstance of the Championship play-off in Tokyo.
TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Usefa Can third round, fleat legs Lyon O Notim Forest O INstance of the Championship play-off in Tokyo.
TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Usefa Can third round, fleat legs Lyon O Notime 1 O Instance of the Champion of Instance of the Champion of Instance of the Champion of Section 1 (Barriers Can Instance of Champion of Maries League Cap first round, and League Champion Stanley 3: Barriber Bridge O Lancaser 1: Canabonough 3 Froking 3: leaf Eastwood Town 3: Sperinymoor 5 Embry O. Beauge Homes League Cap first round, accord leg: Mary's Lyon 2 Rushdan O lagg: 2-11. Second round: Barriers Cap First round, accord leg: Mary's Lyon 2 Rushdan O lagg: 2-11. Second round: Barriers Cap First round, accord leg: Mary's Lyon 2 Rushdan O lagg: 2-11. Second round: Barriers Cap First Division: Blemony O Werroley 1: Mariow 3 Tooling and Mitcham 1. Second Division: Challend Caption Cap Second round: Aldershot Town 3. Naterhoad 1 Carton Tophy Second round: Cove O Bracknell C: Hurgerford O Chesturit 3. Third Division: Blemony O Werroley 1: Mariow 3 Tooling and Mitcham 1. Second Bracknell Heath 4. Carton Cap Second round: Aldershot Town 3. Naterhoad 1. Carton Tophy Second round: Cove O Hornoton First Division: Blemony O Werroley 1: Mariow 3 Tooling of Windows Person North End: Note Gourn's 2 Livery Or Port Vale 3 Coverny Ccy 1. Third Division: Blemony O Werroley 1. Marchester City O Preston North End: Note Gourn's 2 Livery O Preston North End: Second Divisions Burn-ley O: Second Divisions Burn-ley O: Second Divisions Burn-ley O:

AMERICAN EXPRESS ELROPEAN WOMEN'S TOUR 1986: May: 2-5: Weish Open St Pierre Chepstow). 10-12: Costa Azul Open (Arosnie and Quinta do Peru. Lisbon). 24-26: Dutch Chenstow), 10-12: Cosa Azul Open (Argarla and Quimp do Peru, Lishon), 24-25: Duten Open rueruso to be armounced), Jume: 7-2: Ford Sumano Danish Open (Veije), 13-16: Deesse Swiss Open (Makson Blanche, Geneval, 19-22: Evan Missers (Royal Evian, Fr., 27-30: Ausman Open (Menna), July: 4-7: Hernessy Cup (Cologne), 25-28: Guardan Irish Holidays Open (Men. Aug; 1-4: Tournament tha. 8-11: McConald's WPA championship (the), 15-18: Westab Women's British Open (Woburn), 22-25: Trigg Hanse Open (Woburn), 22-25: Trigg Hanses Open (Processor, Swister (Sr. Pierre, Chepstow), 26-29: Maredo Open (Treudesber, Hamburg), Oct; 3-5: Three Nations Cup (Henri-Chepsle, Bel), 10-13: Italian Open di Schal (If Piccolo, Sidf), 17-20: French Open (tha), 24-27: Spanish Open (Hyot) is Marga, 50), Dates to be confirmed: Wilshrson Sword English Open (The Ordroshire); Soottish Open (Delmahoy),

Dean Richards, the Ournfries Border Vilongs forward, has joined the Newcastle Warriors, the struggling Premier League side. The 25-year-old, a Canadian with a British passport, is the second top-scorer for Vikings this season.

LITTLEWOODLS: Trable chance: 24pts £743.05, 23 £34.30, 22 £2.60. Four draws £2.40. 10 homes £49.25. Five eweys £1,318 00. VERNONS: Trable chance: 24pts £249.45, 22 £15.80. 10 homes £43.00. Five aways £34.56. 134.56.
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£3.10. Four draws £75.40. Eight homes
£2.60. Four sweys £793.20. Easy slx
£75.40. Lucily numbers £8 14 38 33 9 34.
Goals galore £1.70.
BRITTERS: Trobin chance: 24pts £28.20,
23 £2.30. Four draws £2.80. Eight homes
£26.70. Pive sweys £163.30.

Rugby Union

NORTH TEAM (v Midsands, CIS Divisional
Championship, Nottingham, Set 9 bee); J
Mallhader Isaler; Healer; IOmeli J Basendell (Saler), P Johnson (Orrell, capti), C Yarbes;
N Libry (Saler), D Sensiy, a Baildwin (Watefield), 6 French (Barth), M Shelley, (Metz Hariepoor), 8f Greenwood (Wasps), J Fourier (Saler),
R Arnold (Newscaster), C Vyyym, N Ashurst
(Saler), Replacements: S Cooke, C Loc
(Wost Hariespool), M Page, A Sandri (Saler),

**Table tennis** Tough action was promised yesterday by Jim Saltonstall, who has been appointed

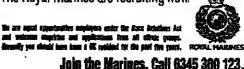
Britain's Olympic team coach to take the squad through the 1996 games regat-ta in Savannah and beyond. Rod Cam becomes Olympic team manager. Two England teams, one from the south and the other representing the east, will contest the Rolex Commodores' Cup next year, in which three-boat teams of amatieurs compete. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will also have but teams as a

Jill Parker, the 41-year-old former Eu-ropean champion, will come out of re-tinement to lead England's women against Germany at Hastings on Tues-day. For the men's European League match against Germany on the same night, Alex Peny of Devon and Andrew Eden of Lancashire have been drafted into the squad, replacing Bradley Billing-

Britain's Clare Wood was knocked out in the second round of the Challenger event in Pans yesterday, beaten 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 by the American qualifier, An-4-0, 0-3 by the American qualitier, Ar-gela Letthere. GRAND SLAM TOURNAMENT (Munich, Ger) First round: T Martin (US) bt 5 Brugueta (Sp. 7-6 6-4; P Sampras (US) bt P McEnroe (US) 6-1 7-6.



The Royal Marines are recruiting now. 🛾 🎩



### Ortlieb is the fastest in first practice

Skilng

Patrick Ortlieh clocked the fastest time in yesterday's open ing practice for the Alpine skiing World Cup downhill at Val d'Isère on Saturday. The Austrian, who won Olympic gold in this French resort in 1992. clocked 1min 10,39sec on the icy piste, which was shortened because of the lack of snow at the

Ortheb has not won a World Cup downhill since winning in Kitzbühel in 1994.

The Oreiller-Killy piste, on which the skiers will have to run two legs on Saturday, seemed to favour heavyweights since Norway's Atle Skaardal, who is stocky, had the second best time of 1:10.65 ahead of Austria's Roland Assinger. He is aiming to emulate his brother, Armin, who won on the course

last year. The women have a super-G race today and a giant statom tomorrow. The men, in addition to Saturday's downhill, have a super-G on Sunday with a possibility of a super-G or slalom for women as a replacement for a race cancelled at Lake Louise,

in Canada. . . Weather conditions have already caused the cancellation of races in Tignes, France, as well as Lake Louise. With the season barely under way. the women are already four races behind schedule.

### **Hendry survives early scare** eight. Hendry was only 51 points in front in the last frame,

Stephen Hendry, the world champion, came from behind to record his 14th successive victory in the second round of the German Open in Frankfurt

The Scot made a secondframe break of 126 on his way to a 5-3 win over Malta's Tony Drago and he now faces Rod Lawler, a 24-year-old from Liv-erpool, in tonight's quarter-

Hendry lost three of the first four frames and admitted: "I couldn't afford to let Tony get any further ahead. It was vital for me to win the fifth frame."

ly crowned UK champion did, and breaks of 79, 72 and 56 carried him through to the last

Peter Graf, the father of the

world No 1 Steffi Graf, has

asked to appear personally be-

fore a judge to make his appeal

not been charged, but is being

investigated on suspicion of ar-

ranging to pay too little tax on

evasion case.

Lawler lost the first frame That is exactly what the new - and the fifth, but in between out-potted the Thai, who has yet to get beyond the last 16 of a

Wattana, 5-2.

ranking tournament this season.

Peter Graf's personal appeal

his daughter's earnings when he acted as her manager. Peter Wechsung, the chief Irani and Craig White have prosecutor, said that Peter Graf also had little opportunity with filed a request yesterday saying he wanted to give an extensive

explanation of his position. for release from custody in a tax Steffi Graf also remains Several written requests for under investigation in the case. as does the family tax adviser. release from jail have been re-Joachim Eckardt, who was jected since Peter Graf was arrested on 3 August after a arrested in September, and is judge's decision that there was also being treated as being at a risk of his feeling to avoid prosecution. Peter Graf has

risk of fleeing. Steffi Graf has already deposited DM20m (£9m) to cover taxes investigators believe may have been evaded. portunity.

**England A in** an awkward situation with four reds left on the table, when Drago, who had missed an easy pink, conceded. Hendry said later: "I'm find-

England A's management face some delicate selection decisions over the next 24 hours in Pakistan. A pre-tour promise to give every player at least one Test" chance means that the Hampshire off-spinner Shaun Udal and the Warwickshire batsman Dominic Ostler will definitely play in Peshawar when the third "Test" against Pakistan A starts on Friday.

However, the weather-af-fected second "Test" in Rawalpindi has left a clutch of other players demanding another opportunity in Peshawar to show what they can do. Batting places, in particular, will be at a premium with Jason Pooley and Anthony Mc-Grath both having had just one innings each so far in the "Test" series.

The all-rounders Ronnie Irani and Craig White have either bat or ball - and with the captain, Nasser Hassain sure to play, there is pressure on the se-lectors to leave out either Jason Gallian or Nick Knight in an effort to find room for others.

On the bowling side, War-wickshire's Tim Munton will definitely sit on the sidelines in Peshawar, whatever the pitch conditions there, which will give the Sussex fast bowler Ed Giddins another deserved op-

silfu caugh politic

# SPORI



# 'Ever since they were cast adrift by the big unions the Western Samoans have been engaged in a battle for survival' STEVE BALE on an endangered species

# Rowell forced to undertake drastic surgery

**Steve Bale** 

Rugby Union Correspondent

Two new caps, four changes of personnel and another two of position in the team named last night to face Western Samoa at Twickenham on Saturday week amount to drastic surgery by re-cent England standards - more akin, in fact, to the bad old days of the Eighties than the stability which has served so well in the

Such, then, is the difficulty caused to Jack Rowell, whose managership has been mainly frustration, by his proper insistence that England find the means to play a rugby of dynamic movement rather than the attrition that likewise had served them so well. Last month's defeat by South Africa appears to have exploded a ew more theories.

One is that Mike Catt is the one to exploit the threequarter resources so often left underexploited, at any rate for the time being. "We have oot outside-half," Rowell suggested wheo the announcement was made before England trained at

Catt reverts - one might say is relegated - to full-back to accommodate Paul Grayson in half-back unisoo with his Northampton partner, Matthew Dawson. Lawrence Dallaglio is the third oewcomer; having im-pressed on his brief debut as a replacement hlind-side flanker against the Springboks, he will play on the open side where he has now undertaken to play for

Wasps. Graham Rowntree's claim to be loose-head prop could no



longer be withstood, leaving the choice at tight head hetween moving Jason Leonard into his Lions position or Victor Ubogu staying put. After the strictures to which Rowell subjected Ubogu before the South Africa match, this was not too hard a choice, however reluctant Leonard may be in the know-

back will be as stiff as a board. Quite apart from the geoeral uncertainty about how a new-look - though, according to Rowell, oot experimental -team will go, there remains one specific uncertainty. After two yellow cards, Mark Regan is due before the Gloucestershire disciplinary committee given up on Mike Catt at on Tuesday; if, as is probable, he is suspended Graham Dawe

will come in for his fifth cap at

ledge that on Sunday week his

hooker. Grayson is a 24-year-old Lancastrian, who has been playing rugby only six years and was once a semi-professional footballer with Accrington Stanley. He played himself into this team with his performance for the Midlands against the Samoans last Saturday. His accurate place-kicking was critical in the decisioo to discard Jonathan Callard, though Grayson would never have been selected without his perceived

half until Northampton went into the Second Division this season and started heating everyone by 50 points. On the contrary: he first came to puhlic attention by kicking Bath to a famous cup defeat by Waterloo three years ago and did little to dispel the oegative impression after he auhse-

quently became a Saint. Dawson, on the other hand, demonstrated his pedigree from the moment he came into the Northampton side, even when he was having to play out of position in the centre. Rowell said that he would probably have displaced Kyran Brackeo whatever bad happened when Samoa played the Midlands - in which case his exquisite personal contribution provided the most handsome endorsement the manager

In the pack, Rodber's mediocre showing before he departed the Springbok Test im-plied he was the one under pressure from Dallaglio but as soon as he was restored to fitness and then form - again against the Samoans for the Midlands - the attention shifted to Andy Robinson, mercilessly relegated to the bench (along with the other three discards) capacity to launch a back line. after winning his first cap in six Curiously, Grayson was not years.

could have wished.



Net working: England's John Crawley practises at Paarl yesterday in preparation for the third Test

Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Alisport

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

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ACROSS Firm in which training is giv- 21

en priority? (6) Young seafarer unforthcoming about quantity of 23 wine sailor's carrying (5-3) Runner initially noticing several people engaged in 25 watersports (4-6) 26

10 Polish fellow regarded as an expert (4)

11 Popular party fast becoming 27 lackadaisical (8) 12 Primate's embargo receiv- 28 ing loud expression of dis-

approval (6) co by serviceman (4)
15 Offering to repair boot with

Kidnapped is full of vigour

19 A few lives io Arabic

A new board game artist made from expensive ma- 6 terial (6) Signal many waited for when 7 left in a cellar, maybe? (3-

Bribe professional killers to suply means of silencing 14 meakers? (6, 4) Girl takes merchandise in- 16 advertently (8)

Extract from Clement At- 17 tlee'a talk (6)

Fascinated by army range 22 shoulder-beit (9) English side supported by hooligan was eliminated (6)

Dressers having underwear entrusted to them? (6, 2, 7) Station dance is something of a game (8)
Plutocrat returning from abroad turned up in British

LOTS MERSEYBEAT

resort (5) Not fit to watch anything but black-and-white films? (3, 6)

Instrument producing very high notes? (9) Spinner's trajectory described as excellent (3-6) Incomer evoking strong resentment (8)

20 Celt getting excited about very big secret (6) Progressive lacking power?

(2, 3) Cancel arrangement for girl to come over mid-July (5)

# Brighton stay put for another year

Football

Brightoo have been told that they can remain at the Goldsione Ground for an extra year, following talks between the local council and the development firm huying the stadium. The Seagulls, who are selling their home of 93 years to help to pay off £6m-worth of dehts, were due to move out in Juoe next

between Hove Council and erties Limited, who plan to build a store after levelling the

Hove's Council leader, Ivor Caplin, announced the reprieve yesterday hnt he was neverthethe pipeline to return to.

The stay of execution until ground they could give the club

The stay of execution until ground they could give the club

The stay of execution until ground they could give the club said: "If the club ends up play-

Jnne 1997 follows negotiations back, via the local council, to lo- ing at Portsmouth, it will be betcal people to run - people who ter tolerated as long as supwill care about our community and oot sell it for any reason,

Brighton's plan was to share ground next season but that idea has received a cool reception less fiercely critical of the club's from the Foothall League, decision to move from the Which wants to be satisfied the Goldstone at all. "When the Scagulls have a new stadium in Seagulls have a new stadium in

porters know there is going to he a new ground to move back

Caplin added that the results Portsmouth's Fratton Park of a specially commissioned study that was set up to identify the best site for a new ground would be known before

The news that Brightoo can stay at the Goldstone for an extra year was greeted enthusi-astically by the cluh's chief

executive, David Bellotti, last night. "When we met Hove Council and representatives from Chartwell three weeks ago, we were hopeful of getting another year at the Goldstone and it's wonderful news. Now all our efforts will go into identifying the land for our new

me into po

Illigence |

Bellotti promised that Brightoo would be lodging a planning application as soon as possible.

United's new dream, page 30

# Showdown at the Bridge

The boardroom showdown between Chelsea rivals Ken Bates and Matthew Harding is un-likely to resolve their hitter power struggle this morning. Harding, the Stamford Bridge landlord, is determined

to force chairman Bates to climh down over his enforced exile from the directors' box. The multi-millionaire will also seek to block plans for the new South Stand - centred around a hotel development and Harding looks set to gain the backing of the managing di-rector, Colin Hutchinson.

But such is the boardroom set-up, with long-term Bates' appointee Yvonne Todd the only other director, that the pair

could find themselves in a classic stand-off. And, as Bates points out: "If the directors split 50-50, our rules say the chair-man gets the casting vote."

Still, it should be a lively confrontation between the fan with a fortune, and the old football politician who has kept the club alive through 13 difficult years. The pair have avoided each other since Bates accepted

Chelsea Village, the football club's parent company, as a de-claration of his takeover intent. But that has not prevented a virulent media battle, with Bates accusing Harding of em-

Harding's resignation from

His 42-year-old opponent, the 89th richest man in the country and with £26.5m already tied up in the club, has not risen to the taunts, merely observing that Bates "is the wrong chairman" and challenging him to match

his financial commitment.

Waged against a background of "mystery" shareholders, ap-peals to the fans and even tales of bugging, the dispute has hit the dressing-room, with the Chelsea manager, Glenn Hoddle, reportedly recruited to the Harding camp and Bates al-legedly lining up the disgraced and exiled former Arsenal harrassing Chelsea, drinking manager, George Graham, as too much and lacking the busi-his eventual successor.

# Clough steps out of the shadows

out of the shadows to answer a Liverpool selection crisis. The former England player

looks certain to start against Bolton on Saturday because of international call-ups as well as injuries to Neil Ruddock and Ian Rush. Jason McAteer, Phil Babb and Mark Kennedy are all wanted by the Republic of Ireland for next week's European Champ-ionship play-off against the Netherlands at Anfield.

It gives Clough, signed from Nottingham Forest two years ago, his first start in the league can change in football."

Roy Evans yesterday paid trib-ute to forgotten man Nigel Clough as he prepares to come seven-match run without a win. "I can't believe no one has, made an offer for Nigel. He is." a class player. He has never let

anyone down when he has been in our team," the Liverpool manager said. "Nigel has had a bad time and it's been difficult for him, but now he has kickstarted himself again and got himself back in the picture.

Evans added: "He is a very honest lad and he gets on with his job. Now we find ourselves in a position with places up for grabs. It's amazing how things

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